

Nashville

THE MUSIC CITY



The American Legion
86th National Convention
August 27-September 2, 2004
Official Program & Guide

Introducing
Your New
Vision Program.

YOUR LEGION OF VISION CARE EXPERTS.



Savings You Can See.

Your American Legion Savings

Access your discounts at Sears Optical, Pearle Vision*, Target Optical, JC Penney Optical and Independent Doctors of Optometry.

Eye Exam	Member Pays
Eyeglass	\$5 off retail price
Contact Lens	\$10 off retail price

Frames

Up to \$60.99 retail	\$25
From \$61 to \$80.99 retail	\$35
From \$81 to \$100.99 retail	\$45
Over \$101 retail	65%

Lenses (Standard uncoated plastic)

Single Vision	\$30
Bifocal	\$50
Trifocal	\$60
Lenticular	\$100

Lens Options (Add to lens prices above)

Anti-Reflective Coating	\$35
Standard Progressive	\$50
Polycarbonate	\$30
Scratch-Resistant Coating	\$12
Ultraviolet Coating	\$12
Solid or Gradient Tint	\$8
Glass (Only for non-minors)	\$15
Photochromic Glass	\$30

Contact Lenses

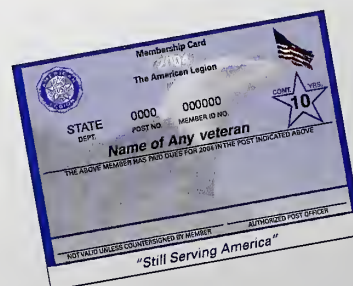
Daily and Extended Wear	20% off retail
Disposable	10% off retail

For location or discount information visit
www.colemanagedvision.com or call 1-800-793-8626
American Legion Plan #47178

The American Legion through Cole Managed Vision offers you and your family discounts on eye exams, glasses and contact lenses.

Our national network of providers includes all the familiar names you know, so there's a trusted provider wherever you live or travel – many open evenings and weekends.

To learn about your new discount or to find a location near you, visit www.colemanagedvision.com or call 1-800-793-8626. Remember to have your plan number 47178 on hand.



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*Pearle Vision, Inc. does not employ Doctors of Optometry and does not provide eye exams in California. Pearle VisionCare, Inc. a licensed vision health care service plan, provides eye exams in California.

THE AMERICAN LEGION 86th NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 27-September 2, 2004



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**The American
Legion**
86th National
Convention



**Sons of The
American Legion**
33rd National
Convention



**American Legion
Auxiliary**
84th National
Convention



**La Boutique Des
Huit Chapeaux Et
Quarante Femmes**
83rd Marche Nationale

Nashville



LillyAnswersSM

A Prescription Drug Program for Low-Income Seniors

LillyAnswers is offered as a stand-alone program and in conjunction with certain Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards.



Millions of American seniors and people with disabilities have incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid, but limited enough that paying cash for prescriptions presents a significant financial burden. They're caught in the gap. As a result, many go without much-needed medicines, potentially jeopardizing their health.

That's why we offer LillyAnswers, a patient assistance program for Medicare-enrolled seniors and Medicare-enrolled people with disabilities who don't have prescription drug coverage. The program is available to Medicare beneficiaries who have individual annual incomes below \$18,000 or household incomes below \$24,000.¹

LillyAnswers offers:

- A flat \$12 administrative fee for a 30-day supply of certain retail-distributed Lilly drugs²
- Lilly medications, including products for people suffering from osteoporosis, diabetes, depression, and schizophrenia
- Potential annual savings of hundreds of dollars per product
- Easy guidelines for patients, physicians, and pharmacists
- Over 52,000 local retail pharmacies accept the LillyAnswers card

To enroll now and start saving, call toll-free 1-877-RX-LILLY (1-877-795-4559), or visit our Web site at: www.lillyanswers.com.

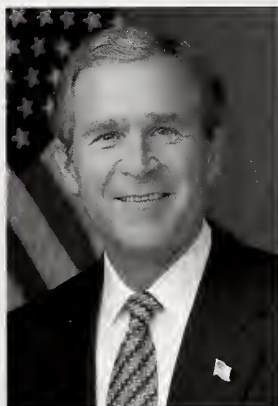
¹ Eligibility requirements subject to change at the sole discretion of Eli Lilly and Company.

² Excludes controlled substances and certain other products as well as products not distributed by retail pharmacies.

Lilly

Answers That Matter.

Welcome Letter from The President of the United States



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 17, 2004

I send greetings to those gathered for the 86th National Convention of the American Legion.

As we work to advance peace and freedom in a troubled world, we look to our veterans as examples of honor and sacrifice. Our Nation remains strong because of the brave men and women who have answered the call to serve. The American Legion represents and supports those who have pledged their lives to secure the blessings of liberty and uphold the democratic ideals of our country.

I join all Americans in expressing our gratitude for your commitment to our retired and active duty military personnel and their families. Your community service and outreach programs enrich the lives of America's heroes.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable event. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

Nashville



"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

-President George Washington



Fox Associates, Inc.
national advertising sales representatives for
THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE
proudly salutes all veterans, past, present, and those
that will fight in the future.
We are in your debt.

Messages of Welcome

Welcome to Tennessee



Phil Bre desen
Governor of Tennessee

Welcome to Nashville and Davidson County



Bill Purcell
Mayor of Nashville

Welcome from the Department of Tennessee



David M. DuBois
Commander,
Department of Tennessee

Dear Legionnaires:

On behalf of the great state of Tennessee, I am greatly honored to extend a warm welcome to the members, guests and participants of the 2004 National Convention of The American Legion.

The American Legion represents the finest ideal of our state and nation. I am proud to recognize an organization that performs invaluable services for America's veterans. I would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your courage, dedication and patriotism to our nation. Patriotism suggests many things but none more clearly than love of country. Your duty and honor to your country is most appreciated by all Americans.

Nashville is a city rich in heritage and tradition, with much to offer the members of The American Legion. Nashville has many cultural activities, historic sites and entertainment possibilities for people of all interests and tastes. As the former mayor of Nashville, I encourage you to enjoy our beautiful city and all it has to offer.

I sincerely hope you will accept this welcome, and I wish you all the best in the years to come.

Warmest regards,

Phil Bre desen
Governor of Tennessee

Greetings to Convention Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome The American Legion for the 86th Annual National Convention being held Aug. 27-Sept. 2, 2004. We are proud of the service and sacrifice each member represents on behalf of our nation.

With its well-known hospitality and its wide variety of cultural activities and entertainment options, all of Nashville is primed to show you a great time, both during your work sessions and during your leisure hours. I am confident you will enjoy all the amenities Nashville has to offer during your convention – excellent restaurants, superior shopping, and, of course, the wealth of music and other entertainment that has established our city's reputation as a national treasure. Visitors and newcomers will have the opportunity to experience our newest landmarks, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, the new Country Music Hall of Fame, and our new Main Public Library. What's more, they'll be able to visit the Parthenon, one of our most beloved icons, newly refurbished and looking better than ever.

You have my every good wish for a productive, enjoyable stay in Nashville, the sort of experience that will make you want to come back again and again.

Thank you for visiting Nashville.

Sincerely,

Bill Purcell
Mayor of Nashville

My fellow Legionnaires:

Welcome to the Volunteer State, where our home traces its nickname heritage back to the early 1800s. When fellow Tennessean Sam Houston needed help to win the battle for Texas independence, more than 30,000 Tennesseans responded to the call and formed the Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry that marched toward the Rio Grande. It is most fitting and appropriate that volunteers of the world's largest veteran service organization meet in Nashville for our 86th National Convention.

Our home greets you with open arms, impeccable southern hospitality and a fascinating history welcoming your exploration. Your only regret will be that you just won't have enough time to marvel at all the offerings in our great state. That simply means you must make plans on returning to continue your explorations.

The entire American Legion family of Tennessee has worked tirelessly to prepare a tempting feast of opportunities and memories you will certainly cherish for years to come. During your visit, do not hesitate to call upon any Tennessee Volunteer to assist you in any way possible. Today, the spirit of pride, service and commitment to those who have worn the uniform of our nation and their family members remains just as strong as it did nearly 200 years ago when Tennesseans answered the call for service.

Enjoy your visit, celebrate our organization's proud heritage, recommit yourselves to our cause, and have a safe journey home.

Sincerely,

David M. DuBois
Commander, Department of Tennessee

Nashville

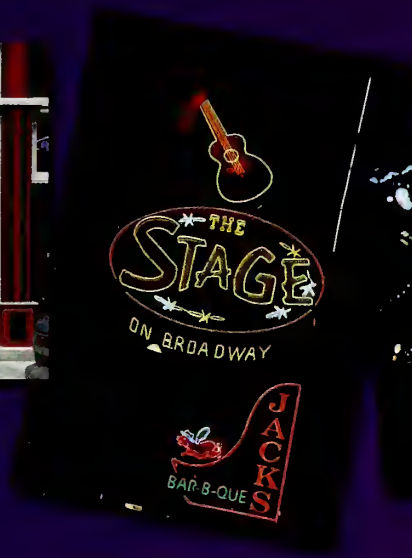




Nashville

THE MUSIC CITY





There's more to Nashville than meets the ear. Long before it became known as Music City USA, Nashville was known as the "Athens of the South" – proud of its history and culture, famous for its sons and daughters and home to the world's only full-scale replica of the Parthenon.

In addition to the honkytonks and theaters, Nashville offers a wide range of cultural, educational and entertaining attractions. The Tennessee World War II Memorial, located downtown in the Capitol Mall State Park is the site of The Pathway of History – a 1,400-foot-long wall mapping Tennessee milestones. A depiction of World War II battlefields is engraved on a floating 9-ton granite globe.

Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and the Nashville Zoo provide visitors an up-close look at local flora and worldwide fauna. Art galleries and museums dot the Nashville landscape, as do scores of restaurants and shopping malls. A Nashville tour is incomplete without a visit to the historic Ryman Auditorium, the new Country Music Hall of Fame and the Grand Ole Opry complex.

If there's only one thing missing from a vacation in Nashville, it's the time to see and do everything the city has to offer.



Nashville





Bulkley Dunton Publishing Group Congratulates The American Legion on their 86th National Convention



You deserve a round of applause!

Banc One Investment Advisors Corporation is pleased to recognize the American Legion.

As a dedicated sponsor of local events and organizations, we salute your contributions to the community.

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Timothy Holihen	317.321.8159
Jonathan Veeder	317.321.7939

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Corporation

Registration and Information

Registration and Information Desk

The registration and information desk of the 86th National Convention of The American Legion will be located in the Delta Lobby, adjacent to the Delta Ballroom.

Hours of Operation

Thursday, Aug. 26 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Monday, Aug. 30 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 27 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 31 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 28 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Wednesday, Sept. 1.. 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 29 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	

Special Thanks

For the “Internet Café” brought to the National Convention by Cendant Corporation and Veterans Holidays.
To Cole Managed Vision for sponsoring a portion of the exhibit hall.
And to Nextel for the use of phones by the National Convention Corporation.

Thank You

Nancy Hays Entertainment, Inc.
The Oak Ridge Boys
Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Carl Murray Photography, Inc.
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All of our exhibitors
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Nashville Police Department
Nashville Fire Department
United Airlines
Hertz Rental Car Systems
The Department of Defense
The National Convention Commission, Jeffrey L. Olson, Chairman
Bernie Simmons, National Accounts Manager
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Cole Managed Vision
Nextel

Trams and Shuttle Services offered at Convention

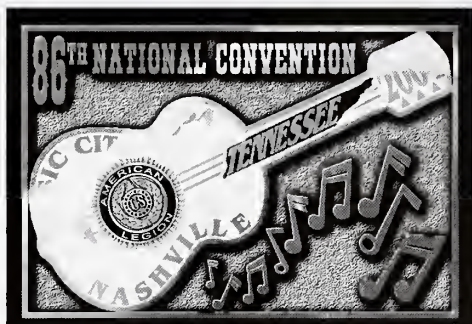
Trams – or “people movers” – will be available for convention participants to save walking time. They will depart from the Presidential, Magnolia, Cascades and Delta Porticos on a regular basis and deliver people to the Delta Island portion of the hotel, where many convention activities are centered. Also, off-site shuttles will bring participants from other places of lodging to the Delta Portico, for easy convention access. Schedules for both services will be available in the attendees' respective hotels.

Nashville



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The American Legion
on 86 years
of service.**

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The American Legion OFFICIAL PROGRAM 86th National Convention

John Brieden
National Commander

Jeffrey L. Olson
Chairman, National Convention Commission

**Tennessee 2004 National
Convention Corporation, Inc.**

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Don Hildebrand
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Dot McMahon
Information

Earl Watson
Parade

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Division**

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Director

Jennifer Zellers
Assistant Director

**Produced by
The American Legion Magazine**

Dennis J. Henkemeyer
Chairman

Layout by Opus Design Group, Inc.

**Special thanks to the Nashville
Convention & Visitors Bureau**

National Convention Hotel Directory

AmeriSuites Hotel

220 Rudy's Circle
(615) 872-0422

Best Western Suites

201 Music City Circle
(615) 902-9940

Country Inn & Suites

210 Rudy Circle
(615) 316-9944

Courtyard by Marriott

125 Music City Circle
(615) 872-8939

Fairfield Inn at Opryland

211 Music City Circle
(615) 872-8939

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

2800 Opryland Drive
(615) 889-1000

Guesthouse Inn & Suites

2420 Music Valley Drive
(615) 885-4030

Radisson Hotel Opryland

2401 Music Valley Drive
(615) 231-8800

Red Roof Inn

2460 Music Valley Drive
(615) 889-0900

Sheraton Music City Hotel

777 McGavock Pike
(615) 885-2200

OFFICIAL DELEGATION HOTELS**American Legion National Headquarters**

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

American Legion Auxiliary and**Eight et Forty**

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Sons of the American Legion and 20/4

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Alabama

Fairfield Inn at Opryland

Alaska

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Arizona

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Arkansas

Sheraton Music City Hotel

California

Guesthouse Inn & Suites

Colorado

Best Western Suites

Connecticut

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

District of Columbia

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Delaware

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Florida

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Georgia

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Hawaii

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Idaho

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Illinois

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Indiana

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Iowa

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Kansas

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Kentucky

Guesthouse Inn & Suites

Louisiana

Radisson Hotel Opryland

Maine

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Maryland

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Massachusetts

Radisson Hotel Opryland

Michigan

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Minnesota

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Mississippi

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Missouri

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Montana

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Nebraska

Radisson Hotel Opryland

Nevada

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

New Hampshire

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

New Jersey

Courtyard by Marriott

New Mexico

Sheraton Music City Hotel

New York

Sheraton Music City Hotel

North Carolina

AmeriSuites Hotel

North Dakota

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Ohio

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Oklahoma

Sheraton Music City Hotel

Oregon

Best Western Suites

Pennsylvania

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Rhode Island

Red Roof Inn

South Carolina

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

South Dakota

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Tennessee

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Texas

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Utah

Guesthouse Inn & Suites

Virginia

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Vermont

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Washington

Country Inn & Suites

West Virginia

Sheraton Music City Hotel

Wyoming

Best Western Suites

France

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Mexico

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Philippines

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Puerto Rico

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

A year of tremendous achievement

As our armed forces fight the ongoing war on terror around the world, a grateful American Legion fights here at home to ensure these young men and women have adequate health care when they return.

The past year has produced successes. When VA Secretary Anthony Principi announced the long-awaited CARES decision in May, The American Legion saw how our voices influenced the recommendations. The six-year, \$6.1 billion Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services program promises new VA medical centers for Denver, Las Vegas and Orlando, Fla., and major expansions in Tampa, Fla., Columbus, Ohio, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. In all, more than 100 major construction projects and hundreds of smaller ones are part of this ambitious plan – the biggest overhaul of VA health care since World War II.

I also speak for The American Legion in praising the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, which includes military pay raises, authority to spend nearly 3.5 percent of GDP on defense, and access to health insurance for Guard and Reserve personnel and their families lacking coverage.

Significantly, this measure also provides some service-disabled military retirees relief from the "disabled veterans tax," which takes a dollar from DoD retirement pay for every dollar received in VA disability compensation. A compromise will phase in partial concurrent receipt over the next decade. While I am pleased that progress has been made in correcting this injustice, this compromise shortchanges thousands of veterans and effectively divides military retirees into separate classes. The American Legion has vowed not to rest until Congress approves legislation authorizing full concurrent receipt.

Working with other veterans service organizations, we also have pushed to the forefront the issue of mandatory funding for VA healthcare. The American Legion believes the promises of the coming CARES realignment must not depend on the risky model of discretionary funding currently used by Congress.

On Memorial Day weekend, I joined tens of thousands of World War II veterans in helping dedicate a national memorial honoring their generation. Numerous Legion resolutions advanced and helped finance the National World War II Memorial, and its dedication served as the highlight of this American Legion year. The Legion family took a leading role in the celebration, sponsoring a prayer breakfast, hospitality tent, celebrity reception and American Legion-Children's Miracle Network walk-a-thon. Posts nationwide participated with their own local celebrations honoring World War II veterans.

This year brought The American Legion closer to another of its highest priorities: a constitutional amendment returning the right of flag protection to the American people. On March 10, Citizens Flag Alliance Chairman and Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady joined NASCAR driver John Andretti and Harvard law professor Richard D. Parker in testifying on behalf of the proposed amendment. We have high hopes that the Senate will join the House in approving the amendment and passing it on to states for ratification.

Only two months remain until the general election. I believe it is one of unparalleled importance to veterans and active-duty personnel now fighting in the war on terrorism. The American Legion is working hard to educate and inform military and veteran voters through our "Impact 2004"



John Brieden
National Commander

campaign. Legion posts across America are sponsoring town-hall meetings, meet-the-candidates nights and getting candidates to publicly reveal their positions on veterans issues.

I am honored to have led this proud and patriotic organization through a year of tremendous achievement. We have accomplished much and, with soldiers returning every day from Iraq and Afghanistan, we have much still to do. I know that The American Legion will meet the challenge, keeping faith with those who have served our great country.

Welcome to the 86th National Convention of The American Legion.

For God and country,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John A. Brieden Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Brieden
National Commander

PROGRAMS AND AGENDAS



For God and Country
we associate ourselves
together for the
following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution
of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a
one-hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and
incidents of our associations
in the Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual
obligation to the community, state
and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both
the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and good will
on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to
posterity the principles of justice,
freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our
comradeship by our devotion to
mutual helpfulness.

Nashville





In Appreciation

AT INTERNATIONAL PAPER, our most valuable resource is our employees, including our veterans of military service. We have a strong commitment to the communities in which we live and contribute to our neighborhoods. In appreciation of the members of the American Legion from a proud sponsor. Visit us at www.ipcoated.com

INTERNATIONAL  PAPER

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Patriotic Religious Service

The Delta Ballroom Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Sunday, Aug. 29, 11 a.m.

Prelude

Organ music

Peter Ole'

Tift County High School Choir,
Tift, Ga.

Welcome

William T. Smith

Chaplain

The American Legion

Department of Tennessee

Post Colors

Bradley County Post 81

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Thomas Wigmore

Massachusetts

National Chaplain

Sons of The American Legion

Reading of the Holy Scriptures

Leviticus 19:18

1 Thessalonians 4:9

John 15:12, 13

Music

Days of Elijah

Tift County High School Choir

Memorial Prayer

Ann Fournier

Massachusetts

National Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary

Message

"We Remember Because We Love"

Rev. Dr. William J.P. Doubek III

Missouri

National Chaplain

The American Legion

Music

Salute to Fallen Heroes

Tift County High School Choir

Presentation of Memorial Wreaths

For The American Legion

John A. Brieden

Texas

National Commander

Robert W. Spanogle

Michigan

National Adjutant

For the American Legion Auxiliary

Katherine Morris

Texas

National President

God Bless America

*God Bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America
My home, sweet home.
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.*

Peggy Sappenfield

Indiana

National Secretary

For The Sons of The American Legion

Neal C. Warnken

Kansas

National Commander

Brian O'Hearne

Massachusetts

National Adjutant

For the Eight and Forty

Margaret Sheridan

Idaho

Le Chapeau National

Elyline Schweitzer

California

Le Secretaire-Cassiere Nationale

**For those in uniform who lost their lives
serving America in the past year**

Rev. William Doubek III

Missouri

National Chaplain

The American Legion

Ann Fournier

Massachusetts

National Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary

Lighting Candle of Remembrance

2004 American Legion Boys Nation

President

Silent Moment of Meditation

Taps

Music

Total Praise

Tift County High School Choir

Benediction

Mary Oliver

Tennessee

American Legion Auxiliary

Retirement of Colors

HAYNES & PARTNERS

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Nashville



Parade Information

Friday, Aug. 27

Contests Representatives Meeting

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Bayou E, Delta Mezzanine, Level M
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 28

Parade Meeting

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Bayou C, Delta Mezzanine, Level M
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Color Guard Contest

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Delta Ballroom, Level 2
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Bands Contest

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Tennessee Ballroom, Section C, Level 2
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 29

Parade

Gaylord Opryland Hotel Complex
4 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.



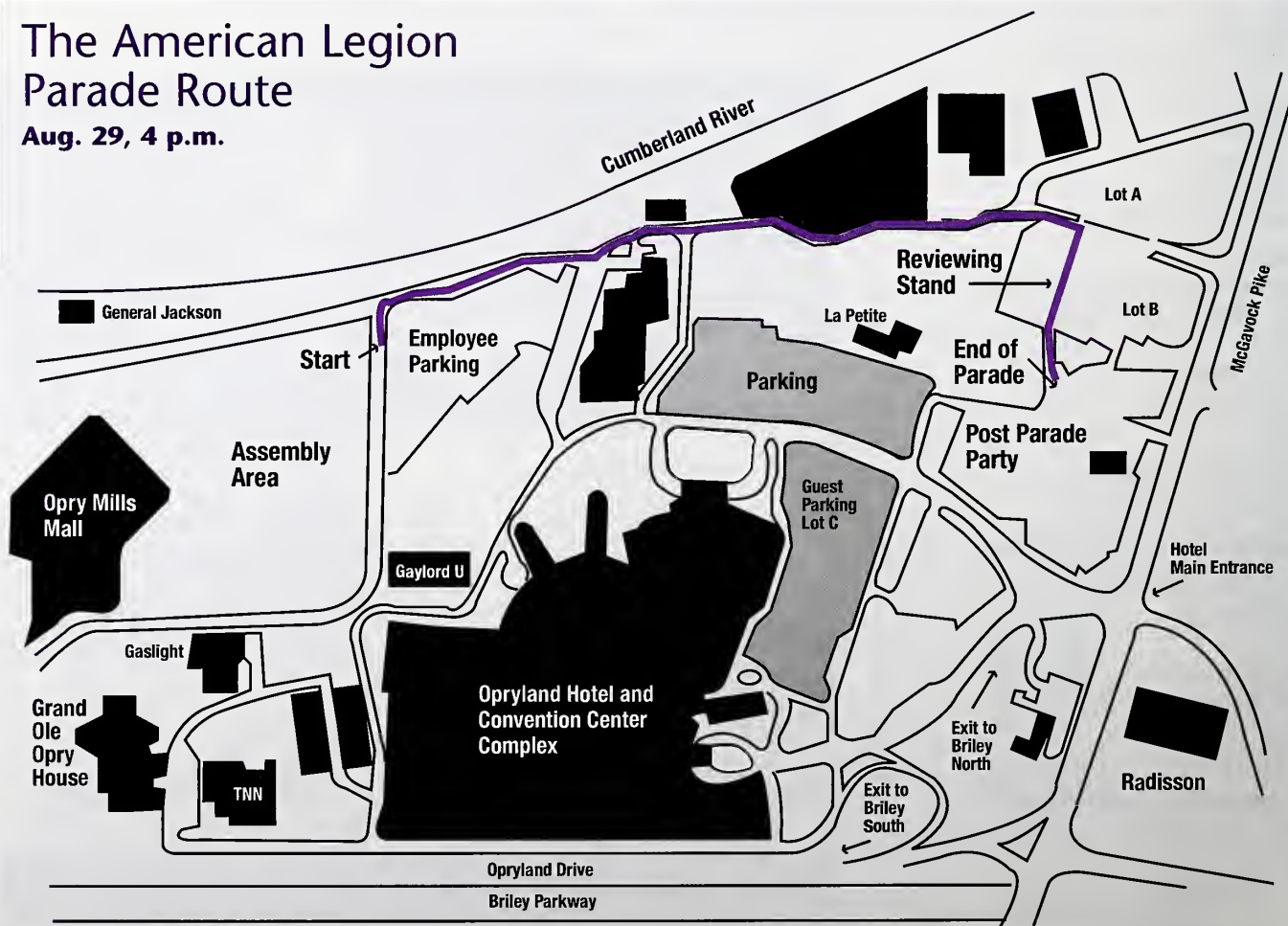
Major General Gus L. Hargett
Grand Marshall
*The Adjutant General, Military
Department
of Tennessee
Nashville, Tenn.*



Mr. Ronald F. Conley
**Honorary
Grand Marshall**
*Past National Commander
Pittsburgh, Pa.*

The American Legion Parade Route

Aug. 29, 4 p.m.



Formation Area:

Southwest of the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in the Opry Mills Mall parking lot.

Route:

Commencing in the Opry Mills Mall Parking lot, the parade will head north on Opry Mills Drive toward parking lot B1 where it will turn east. The parade route is approximately .7 of a mile.

Disbanding Area:

Parking lots B3, B4 and E1 of the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. A post-parade party will take place in parking lot E2 from 4:30 p.m. until approximately 9 p.m.

Reviewing Stand:

Is located in parking lot B1 of the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center at 2800 Opryland Drive.

Parade

The official Parade of the 86th National Convention of The American Legion will be governed by instructions contained herein together with the Organization and March Timetable.

1. TIME:

(All times in these orders are Central Standard Time)

(A) The leading element of the parade will move from the "Initial Point," (Opry Mills Mall parking lot heading north on Opry Mills Drive) promptly at 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 29, regardless of weather (the exception being an electrical storm).

(B) The time and place of assembly for each department or element of the parade will be shown in detail on the "Organization and March Timetable," a copy of which has been sent to each department parade chairman.

A meeting of all department parade chairmen will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, in the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Bayou C Room, Delta Mezzanine, Level M.

A parade official will direct departments and elements of the parade to their assigned assembly area. That official will advise all bus drivers of the route to follow to the disbanding area.

Because of the nature of the assembly area, accurate logistics are essential. Promptness in arrival at the assembly area is highly encouraged.

2. ORGANIZATION:

(A) All elements have been assigned to divisions, each under the direction of the parade officials. The composition of these divisions, order of march, time and place of assembly and parade map have been supplied to each of the department parade chairmen.

(B) All Department of Defense units will be governed by applicable regulations, but summer uniforms are recommended.

(C) Each department commander or appointed parade representative will be responsible for the order of march and promptness of arrival at the assembly area of all units of his department. All units will conform to the following distribution and formation:

(1) All American Flags, the department and post colors of each department and the department and unit colors of each department of the Auxiliary will be massed at the head of each department Delegation in that order.

(2) American Legion units within departments will march in formation eight (8) abreast, one and one-half yards between ranks.

(3) **BANDS AND DRUM CORPS:** As directed by drum majors, but not to exceed eight (8) abreast.

(4) Authorized floats and automobiles in single column. No unauthorized floats or automobiles will be allowed to participate. All vehicles must be equipped with identifying signs on sides thereof and must also carry an "OFFICIAL CAR" sticker on the windshield.

(5) **ABSOLUTELY NO MANEUVERS EXCEPT FOR A FORWARD MOVEMENT.** Marching units, bands, color guards and drill teams must abide by this regulation.

(D) DISTANCES:

- (1) Between Divisions - 30 yards
- (2) Between Department - 20 yards
- (3) Between elements of a Department - 10 yards

3. OFFICIAL REVIEWING STAND:

The official reviewing stand will be located in parking lot B1 of the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. Elements will render a salute to the National Commander while passing the reviewing stand (eyes right).

4. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE AND CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS:

(A) Pursuant to resolution adopted at a meeting of the National Convention Commission at Miami Beach on March 12, 1970, there will be no participation of any vehicles, equipment or items of wearing apparel of the 40 et 8. The Parade Committee of the 2003 Convention Corporation will enforce this regulation.

(B) With exception of police, military and naval escort, and distinguished guests, eligibility to participate in the parade is limited to the members of The American Legion and the uniform bodies of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion subject to restriction of the following activities which shall be prohibited in the line of march:

- (1) The drinking of or simulated drinking of intoxicants.
- (2) Participants under the influence of intoxicants.
- (3) Use of water pistols and electric shocking devices.
- (4) Female impersonators.
- (5) Firecrackers and any other explosives.
- (6) Any presentation or representation either immoral or in bad taste.

(C) Violators of any of the above rules will be dismissed from the parade immediately.

5. FIRST AID STATIONS:

First Aid Stations and water stations will be located throughout the parade route and in the disbanding area. Additionally, ambulances and mobile EMT units will be available to assist parade marchers and spectators.

6. PARKING OF CHARTERED OR POST BUSES:

All buses must enter the assembly area using Opry Mills or Opryland Drive off of Briley Parkway. Buses will be positioned, in the disbanding area, in parking lots E3 and E4 of the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Buses will load their personnel at the assigned area within the disbanding area. Parade officials will direct participants to their buses. **(PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND ALL EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE BUSES WHEN UNLOADING AT THE ASSEMBLY AREA.)**

Standing Rules of the National Convention

As contained in the "Uniform Code Of Procedure For The Organization Of National Conventions Of The American Legion," the following Standing Rules of the National Convention are authorized under Article V, Section 6, of the National Constitution of The American Legion.

1. Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall be the authority on parliamentary procedure, with the following modifications:

2. A delegate desiring to make a motion or address the Convention shall rise, address the Chair as "Mr. Commander" and state his name and the name of the Department before proceeding.

3. Debate shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker.

4. Debate on any one subject presented to the Convention shall be limited to two hours except under such special rule as the Convention shall adopt prior to debate.

5. But two delegates from any one delegation shall be permitted the floor on any one question. Where disagreement exists within a delegation, one delegate shall be permitted to speak on each side of the question. Upon a division of the question, however, this rule shall be applied separately for each division.

6. The floor shall be permitted but once to any individual delegate on any one question, except by a two-thirds vote of the Convention. Chairmen of Convention Committees may speak as frequently as may be necessary in connection with the reports of their committees. The Presiding Officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the Committee Chairman an opportunity for rebuttal.

7. Decisions on Rules of Debate or parliamentary order by the Presiding Officer may be subject to appeal by any two delegates under a Point of Order. Such appeal shall take precedence over any pending questions and shall be decided forthwith. An appeal from the decision of the Chair shall be put to the Convention on the question: "Shall the Chair be sustained?"

8. When the poll of any Department Delegation is demanded by a delegate of such Department, the Convention Secretary shall poll the vote without discussion of the question being voted upon.

9. On the Roll Calls, the delegation Chairman shall poll his delegation on the floor and announce its vote.

10. In the event a delegation secretary is not an accredited delegate or alternate, he shall be seated with his delegation.

11. Past National Commanders' votes shall be cast with their delegations.

12. Only accredited delegates or their alternates shall participate, directly or indirectly, in a viva voce vote on any subject before the Convention.

13. Department delegations may arrive at a vote in such manner as they choose, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his Department.

14. There shall be no unit rule of voting.

15. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chairmen of at least three Departments. Election of National Officers shall be by roll call.

16. In the event a Department has not provided the method by which alternates shall be designated to serve in the place of absent delegates, the Chairman of the delegation shall make such designation.

17. Prior to the election of National Officers, the National Commander shall appoint, subject to approval of the Convention, a Judge of Election and such number of tellers as he deems necessary, provided that the total tellers so appointed shall be an odd number. In a contested election each candidate going to the ballot shall be entitled to one teller of his choice.

18. Nominations for National Officers shall be from the floor on Roll Call of the Departments alphabetically arranged. Each Department may present as many candidates as it chooses.

19. Nomination speeches for National Officers shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate, and said speeches shall be limited to three minutes.

20. When more than two candidates are nominated for any office, balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes of the Convention, except in the election of National Vice Commanders.

21. In a contested election for National Vice Commanders, balloting shall continue until (a) majorities and (b) pluralities are established for one or more candidates under

the following provisions: If, on any ballot taken, less than five candidates receive the necessary majority to elect, the candidate or candidates receiving a majority vote shall be declared elected and a new ballot shall be taken for the remaining number of places to be filled. The candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the preceding ballot shall be disqualified; should two candidates remain to fill one place, a new ballot shall be taken.

22. The Convention will nominate and elect a National Commander, and five National Vice Commanders, in this sequence.

23. At the conclusion of balloting on National Vice Commanders, each Department Delegation Chairman shall deliver a written ballot to the tellers. Such ballots shall be in the hands of the tellers before communication is made to the National Commander for announcement of the results.

24. Those recognized by the National Commander shall be entitled to a respectful hearing, and the Chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort from the Convention anyone creating a disturbance or interfering with orderly procedure.

25. None of the above rules shall be construed as preventing an alternate delegate from serving on a Convention committee.

26. The consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention is necessary for suspension of the standing rules of the Convention.

27. Any amendment to any resolution or report originating on the floor shall be presented in writing and transmitted to the Presiding Officer at the time of the introduction of such amendment.

28. Special rules applying to specific issues or order of business shall be written and presented to the Convention by the Legislation and Rules Committee for adoption by majority vote at least one hour before such issue or order is to be considered, unless such rule is agreed to by unanimous consent of the final session. Special rules shall prevail only when the Convention adopts them. Any delegate may apply for a special rule to the Legislation and Rules Committee or may appeal to the Convention for such special rule provided the rule be presented in writing, be read once from the platform, and shall lay upon the table at least one hour before the vote thereon is taken.

Standing Commissions and Committee Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings will begin at 9 a.m. in the Gaylord Opryland Hotel.

AUGUST 26 - 29

Resolutions Assignment Committee
Hermitage E, Magnolia Mezzanine

Screening Committee Meetings **FRIDAY, AUG. 27**

Americanism Screening
Belmont A, Magnolia Mezzanine

Economic Screening
Belmont B, Magnolia Mezzanine

VA&R Screening
Belmont C, Magnolia Mezzanine

Standing Commissions and Committees **SATURDAY, AUG. 28**

A.L. Insurance
8:30 a.m.
Belmont B, Magnolia Mezzanine

Americanism and Subcommittees
8:30 a.m.
Washington B, Presidential Mezzanine

Children & Youth
8:30 a.m.
Jackson E&F, Presidential Mezzanine

Constitution & Bylaws
Belmont C, Magnolia Mezzanine

Convention
8 a.m.
Governor's Chamber A, Level 2

Distinguished Guests
Hermitage A, Magnolia Mezzanine

Economic
8:30 a.m.
Canal E, Delta Mezzanine

Emblem
9:15 a.m.
Governor's Chamber A, Level 2
NOTE: Emblem will also meet Aug. 29 at 9:30 a.m., Governor's Chamber A, Level 2

Finance
8:30 a.m.
Magnolia Boardroom B
Magnolia Mezzanine

Foreign Relations Joint Meeting with National Security
Level 2, Governor's South Ballroom, Sections C&D

Foreign Relations
1:30 p.m.
Washington B,
Presidential Mezzanine

Foreign Relations Subcommittees
(Subcommittees will meet immediately following the Joint Session)

Internal Affairs
8:30 a.m.
Bayou D, Delta Mezzanine

M&PA
Governor's Chamber D, Level 2

Legislative
Governor's Chamber C, Level 2

National Security Joint Meeting with Foreign Relations
Governor's South Ballroom, Sections C&D

National Security
1 p.m.
Governor's South Ballroom, Sections C&D

National Security Committees
Immediately following Commission Session

Aerospace
1:30 p.m.
Jackson F, Presidential Mezzanine

Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness
1:30 p.m.
Lincoln A, Presidential Mezzanine

Law and Order
1:30 p.m.
Lincoln B, Presidential Mezzanine

Merchant Marine
1:30 p.m.
Lincoln C, Presidential Mezzanine

Military Affairs
1:30 p.m.
Jackson C, Presidential Mezzanine

Naval Affairs
1:30 p.m.
Lincoln D, Presidential Mezzanine

General Security Ad Hoc
1:30 p.m.
Jackson D, Presidential Mezzanine

Public Relations
8:30 a.m.
Lincoln E, Presidential Mezzanine

The American Legion Magazine
Hermitage D, Magnolia Mezzanine

VA&R
Tennessee Ballroom D, Level 2

Convention Committees **SUNDAY, AUG. 29**

Americanism
(including subcommittees)
8:30 a.m.
Canal A, Delta Mezzanine

Children & Youth
Bayou A, Delta Mezzanine

Standing Commissions and Committee Meetings *(cont.)*

Constitutional Amendments

Hermitage A, Magnolia Mezzanine

Credentials and Internal Affairs

Credentials and Other Internal Matters, Sections I & II

Cheekwood G&H, Magnolia Mezzanine

Membership – Section III

Canal B, Delta Mezzanine

Economic

(Includes Employment, Veterans Preference and Other Economic Matters)

Canal E, Delta Mezzanine

Finance

Canal D, Delta Mezzanine

Foreign Relations Joint Meeting

8:30 a.m.

Washington B,
Presidential Mezzanine

Foreign Relations Subcommittees

(Subcommittees will meet immediately following joint session.)

Legislation and Rules

10 a.m.

Cheekwood B,
Magnolia Mezzanine

National Security Joint Meetings

(Includes Aerospace, Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness, Law and Order, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs, and Naval Affairs)

Governor's South Ballroom,
Sections C&D

National Security Committees

(Immediately following Joint Meeting)

Aerospace

Jackson F, Presidential Mezzanine

Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness

Lincoln A, Presidential Mezzanine

Law and Order

Lincoln B, Presidential Mezzanine

Merchant Marine

Lincoln C, Presidential Mezzanine

Military Affairs

Jackson C, Presidential Mezzanine

Naval Affairs

Lincoln D, Presidential Mezzanine

General Security and Ad Hoc

Jackson D, Presidential Mezzanine

General Security Meeting

(All Committees)

Governor's South Ballroom,
Sections C&D

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Claims & Rating, and Hospitals & Medical Services Joint Meeting

Bayou E, Delta Mezzanine
(Hospital & Medical Services will proceed to separate session in Bayou D, and subsequently return to Joint Session following subcommittee actions on resolutions.)

MONDAY, AUG. 30

POW/MIA Update

Governor's Ballroom,
Sections A&E, Level 2

National Convention Sergeant-at-Arms Meeting

8:30 a.m.

Bayou E,
Delta Mezzanine

Pre-NEC Meeting

Governor's South Ballroom,
Sections C&D

Other Meetings

AUGUST 27

Contests Representatives Meeting

2 p.m.

Bayou E, Delta Mezzanine

SAL Executive Committee Meeting

3 p.m.

Governor's Ballroom, Sections A,B&E

SAL National Convention

6 p.m.

Governor's Ballroom, Sections A, B&E

AUGUST 28

SAL National Convention

9:30 a.m.

Governor's Ballroom, Sections A,B&E

Convention Parade Meeting

2 p.m.

Bayou C, Delta Mezzanine

AUGUST 29

SAL National Convention

8:30 a.m.

Governor's Ballroom, Sections A,B&E

Patriotic Memorial Service

11 a.m.

Delta Ballroom, Level 2

National Convention Parade

4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2

Post-NEC Meeting

Governor's South Ballroom
Sections C&D, Level 2
(Immediately following adjournment of convention)

2004 Reunions, Receptions and Dinners

AUGUST 27

Ye Steivos Reception

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Hermitage D, Magnolia Mezzanine, Level M
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

AUGUST 28

Historian's Luncheon

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Hermitage B, Magnolia Mezzanine, Level M
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Finance Commission Luncheon

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Belmont A, Magnolia Mezzanine, Level M
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

AUGUST 29

ANAVICUS Breakfast

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Tennessee Ballroom, Level 2
7 a.m. - 9 a.m.

AUGUST 30

Past National Commanders'

Wives Luncheon

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Belle Meade A&B, Magnolia Mezzanine,
Level M
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Past Department

Commanders Luncheon

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Tennessee Ballroom,
Sections A - C, Level 2
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Past Department

Vice Commanders Club

Annual Gathering

The Stockyard Restaurant
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

AUGUST 31

National Commander's Banquet

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Presidential Ballroom, Level 2
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 1

American Legion Auxiliary All-States Dinner

Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Presidential Ballroom, Level 2
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

The Upper Room Chapel

Museum, Garden, Bookstore
Life size Last Supper woodcarving,
Christian art, porcelains, nativity scenes

M - F 8:00-4:30 615-340-7207

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Agenda of the 86th Annual National Convention of The American Legion

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Delta Ballroom, Level 2

Nashville, Tenn.

Aug. 31 – Sept. 2, 2004

TUESDAY, AUG. 31

8:30 a.m.

Prelude

Peter Ole', Organist

9 a.m.

Call To Order

John A. Brieden

National Commander

Texas

Advancement Of Colors

American Legion

Post No. 86 Color Guard

Rockville, Md.

National Anthem

Katie Park

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Invocation

Rev. William J. P. Doubek

National Chaplain

Missouri

Pledge Of Allegiance

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony

Dave Rehbein

Chairman

Foreign Relations Commission

Iowa

Warren G. King, Sr.

Former POW

Tennessee

Preamble to The American Legion Constitution

John A. Brieden

National Commander

Texas

9:15 a.m.

Opening – "Making a Difference"

The American Legion Youth Champions

2004 Boys Nation President

Stephen Riley Harwell

Belton, S.C.

2004 Junior Shooting Sports Champion

2004 Eagle Scout of the Year

Garrett Martin

McMinnville, Tenn.

2004 Winner National Oratorical Contest

Philip Bishop

Albany, Ga.

2003 Baseball Player of the Year

Jared James Willis

Logan, W.Va.

Presentation of Spirit of Service Awards

By John A. Brieden

National Commander

Texas

The Hon. R. L. Brownlee

Acting Secretary of the Army

SPC Russell A. Burnham

U.S. Army

IT2 Luciana A. Rodriques

U.S. Navy

Cpl. Clinton F. Firstbrook

U.S. Marines

SK2 Patricia Johnson

U.S. Coast Guard

Staff Sgt. Catherin C. Lammon

U.S. Air Force

9:50 a.m.

Introduction

Katherine Morris

National President

American Legion Auxiliary

Texas

10 a.m.

Address

The Hon. R. L. Brownlee

Acting Secretary of the Army

10:20 a.m.

Welcome

The Hon. Jim Cooper

U.S. House of Representatives

The Hon. Bill Purcell

Mayor of the City of Nashville

10:40 a.m.

Address

The Hon. Elaine L. Chao

Secretary, Department of Labor

11 a.m.

Address

The Hon. Anthony J. Principi

Secretary

Department of Veterans Affairs

11:20 a.m.

Address

Noon

Welcome

Bascom Barrett

2003-2004 Department Commander

The American Legion of Tennessee

Jennings B. Loring

President

The American Legion National

Convention Corporation of Tennessee

12:10 p.m.

National Commander's Report To Convention

John A. Brieden

National Commander

Texas

12:30 p.m.

Call For Convention

Robert W. Spanogle

National Adjutant

Michigan

12:40 p.m.

Certificate Of Appreciation

By John A. Brieden

National Commander

Texas

To Rev. William J. P. Doubek

National Chaplain

Missouri

12:45 p.m.

Presentation of Plaque to the City of St. Louis, for the 2003 National Convention

By Ronald F. Conley

Past National Commander

Pennsylvania

Accepting:
James F. Mareschal
President
The Missouri National Convention
Corporation of The American Legion

Mark Cahill
St. Louis Convention & Visitors
Commission

12:50 p.m.
Introduction
Sons Of The American Legion
Newly Elected National Commander

12:55 p.m.
Greetings
Gen. Kao, Hua-chu
Minister, Veterans Affairs Commission
Republic of China

Gen. Lee, Sang Hoon
Chairman
The Korean Veterans Association
Republic of China

R.R. (Bob) Cassels,
Dominion President, Army, Navy and
Air Force Veterans in Canada

1:20 p.m.
Report Of Credentials & Internal
Affairs - Section 1

1:40 p.m.
Report Of Legislation And Rules

1:50 p.m.
Report Of Finance

2 p.m.
Recess

NOTE: Times of subsequent sessions and
times of Convention Committee Reports
are subject to change by the chair.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1

8:30 a.m.
Prelude

9 a.m.
Call To Order
John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

Salute To Colors

Invocation
Rev. William J.P. Doubek
National Chaplain
Missouri

Pledge Of Allegiance
9:05 a.m.
Gen. Richard B. Myers
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
U.S. Air Force

9:25 a.m.
Address
Lt. Gen. Stephen Blum
Chief, National Guard Bureau

9:45 a.m.
Address
The Hon. Phil Bredesen
Governor of the State of Tennessee

10 a.m.
Address
The Hon. Tom Ridge
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

10:20 a.m.
Address
The Hon. Jerry D. Jennings
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
POW/Missing Personnel Affairs

10:40 a.m.
Address

11 a.m.
Greetings
John Furgess
Commander-In-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

11:10 a.m.
Special Report –
Flag Amendment Campaign
Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady
(U.S. Army, Ret.)
Chairman of the Board
The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.

11:30 a.m.
Greetings
John Alger
Dominion Vice President
The Royal Canadian Legion

11:40 a.m.
Report Of Economics
Employment and Veterans Preference
Other Economic Matters

Noon
Presentation, Employer of the Year
Awards for Hiring Veterans
By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

To William Kerins
President of Operations
Wheatland Tube Company
Wheatland, Pa.

James Waddell
Assistant Project Manager
Wackenhut Service, Inc.
Spring Lake, N.C.

Norm Anderson
Owner
Anderson Iron Works, Inc.
Post Falls, Idaho

Presentation, American Legion Local
Veterans Employee Representative Of
The Year Award
By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

To Claud Miller
Anniston, Alabama

Presentation, Disabled Veterans
Outreach Program Of The Year Award
By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

To Jim Balog
Helena, Montana

Presentation, Employment
Service Office Of The Year
By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

86th National Convention of The American Legion (cont.)

To Sarah Jackson
Office Manager
Pocatello Job Service Office
Pocatello, Idaho

12:20 p.m.

Report Of Americanism

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., Trophy
Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy
By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

12:35 p.m.

Presentation, William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy

By Aubrey L. Webb
Vice President/Publisher
The Beaumont Enterprise
Beaumont, Texas

To Winning Department

12:45 p.m.

Presentation, 2004 National Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year

By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

To Police Officer First Class
Patrick W. Eckley
Howard County Police Department
Ellicott City, Md.

12:50 p.m.

Address

Dan Kurzman
Author of "No Greater Glory"

12:55 p.m.

Presentation, Chapel Of Four Chaplains Legion Of Honor Bronze Medallion

To John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

By The Chapel of Four Chaplains

1 p.m.

Report Of Children & Youth

Presentation of Garland Murphy Award And Legacy Award

By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

1:15 p.m.

Report Of Credentials & Internal Affairs - Membership

1:20 p.m.

Department Membership Awards

1:40 p.m.

Report Of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Claims and Rating Hospitals and Medical Services

Announcement Of Winning Department - William F. Lenker National Service Trophy

By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

2:05 p.m.

Report Of Credentials & Internal Affairs - Section 2

2:20 p.m.

Report Of Constitutional Amendments

Salute To Colors

Recess

NOTE: Times of subsequent sessions and times of Convention Committee Reports are subject to change by the chair.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2

9 a.m.

Call To Order

By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

Salute To Colors

Invocation

Rev. William J. P. Doubek
National Chaplain
Missouri

Pledge Of Allegiance

9:05 a.m.

Presentation of The American Legion Fourth Estate Award

By John A. Brieden
National Commander
Texas

To Mark Benjamin
United Press International

9:10 a.m.

Report Of Foreign Relations

9:35 a.m.

Report Of National Security Aerospace Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness

Law and Order Merchant Marine Military Affairs Naval Affairs

10 a.m.

Presentation Of Plaque And Colors To Outgoing National Commander

By Daniel A. Ludwig
Past National Commander (Colors)

By Joe L. Matthews
Past National Commander (Plaque)

Noon (Or at the conclusion of all other business, whichever first occurs.)

Special Order Of Business

Election Of National Officers National Commander

Administering The Oath Of Office To The National Commander

Acceptance Speech By Newly Elected National Commander

Election Of National Officers Five (5) National Vice Commanders

Presentation Of Colors To Newly Elected National Commander

Response By Newly Elected National Commander

Presentation Of Newly Elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary

Unfinished Business

Benediction

Retirement Of Colors

NOTE: The National Executive Committee will meet within 24 hours after close of the convention.

Distinguished Guests for the 2004 National Convention

Highlighted text indicates Distinguished Guests making presentations at the National Convention.

John Alger

Dominion Vice Commander
The Royal Canadian Legion
Ottawa, Ont.

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Imlach Movers
Lorain, Ohio

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Anderson Iron Works, Inc.
Post Falls, Idaho

Annette Aulton

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U. S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

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Helena, Mont.

Allison Barber

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Alexandria, Va.

Samuel Barney

Advisory Committee to the National Commander
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Wendi Cherry Barra

Project Manager
MENC: The National Association for Music
Education
Reston, Va.

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Pamela Jo Parker

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Manager
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Navy Personnel Command
Millington, Tenn.

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Howard County Police Department
Ellicott City, Md.

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Office of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Small Business Administration
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Associate Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C.

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Public Affairs Division
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
Washington, D.C.

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DPMO Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

SFC Gary Grisdale

U.S. Army
Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office
Washington, D.C.

Sean Guilfoyle

First National Bank Omaha
Omaha, Neb.

Capt. DeDe Halfhill

Department of the Air Force
Washington, D.C.

Bruce Harder

Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office
Washington, D.C.

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Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)
Alexandria, Va.

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Bulkley Dunton Publishing Group
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Pocatello Job Service Office
Pocatello, Idaho

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Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
POW/Missing Personnel Affairs
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SK2 Patricia Johnson
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(USAF-Retired), President
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Genevieve Keller
Kankakee, Ill.

William Kerins
Vice President of Operations
Wheatland Tube Company
Wheatland, Pa.

Paul Kerlin
Director, MENC: The National
Association for Music Education
Reston, Va.

Nathaniel King
National Recruiter of the Year
Phenix City, Ala.

Candy Kingma
Director of Government Marketing
Cendant Corporation
Carmel, Ind.

Gen. Kao, Hua-chu
Minister, Veterans Affairs Commission
Republic of China

Christophe Kusel
Account Executive, International Paper
Basking Ridge, N.J.

Dan Kurzman
North Bergen, N.J.

Staff Sgt. Catharin C. Lammon
U.S. Air Force
Schriever AFB, Colo.

Randall D. Lange, DVM
Co-Founder
JoshCo, LLC
Knoxville, Tenn.

Douglas W. Leshner
Co-Founder
JoshCo, LLC
Knoxville, Tenn.

Chief G. Wayne Livesay
Howard County Police Department
Ellicott City, Md.

Richard Lofgren
President & CEO
Children's Organ Transplant Association
Bloomington, Ind.

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President, 2004 National Convention Corp.
Nashville, Tenn.

James F. Mareschal
President
National Convention Corporation of Missouri
St. Louis

Garrett Martin
2004 Eagle Scout of the Year
McMinnville, Tenn.

Claud Miller
Local Veterans' Employment Representative
Anniston Employment Service
Anniston, Ala.

John Minnick
Public Liaison Officer
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.

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National President, American Legion Auxiliary
Houston, Texas

William F. Murphy, Esq.
Dillingham & Murphy, LLP
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The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington, D.C.

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Connie Myler
Business Specialist
Cendant Corporation
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National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Yvonne O'Brien
U. S. Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
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Brian O'Hearne
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Chattanooga, Tenn.

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First National Bank of Omaha
Omaha, Neb.

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Director, Loan Guaranty Service
Department of Veterans Affairs
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Advisory Committee to the National Commander
Owego, N.Y.

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Director, VA Regional Office
Nashville, Tenn.

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Acting Under Secretary for Health
Department of Veterans Affairs
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Dan Pontius
Director, Corporate and Association Development
Children's Miracle Network
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Past National Adjutant
Bismarck, N.D.

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Keystone Uniform Cap Company
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David W. Shidler
Account Executive
Marsh Affinity Group Services
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Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
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Director, Overseas Liaison Department
Veterans Affairs Commission
Republic of China

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Associate Director, Relationships Division
Boy Scouts of America
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Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office
Washington, D.C.

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Neal Susten
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First National Bank Omaha
Omaha, Neb.

Neal C. Warnken
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

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The Beaumont Enterprise
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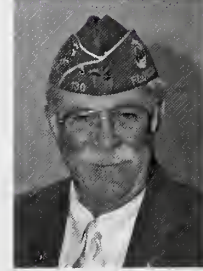
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The American Legion Honor Roll of Service

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS 1919-2003

*Franklin D'Olier <i>Pennsylvania</i> 1919-20	*Milo J. Warner <i>Ohio</i> 1940-41	*James E. Powers <i>Georgia</i> 1962-63	Clarence M. Bacon <i>Maryland</i> 1984-85
**Frederic W. Galbraith Jr. <i>Ohio</i> 1920-21	*Lynn U. Stambaugh <i>North Dakota</i> 1941-42	*Hon. Daniel F. Foley <i>Minnesota</i> 1963-64	*Dale L. Renaud <i>Iowa</i> 1985-86
***John G. Emery <i>Michigan</i> 1921	*Roane Waring <i>Tennessee</i> 1942-43	*Donald E. Johnson <i>Iowa</i> 1964-65	James P. Dean <i>Mississippi</i> 1986-87
*Hanford MacNider <i>Iowa</i> 1921-22	*Warren H. Atherton <i>California</i> 1943-44	*L. Eldon James <i>Virginia</i> 1965-66	John P. "Jake" Comer <i>Massachusetts</i> 1987-88
*Alvin M. Owsley <i>Texas</i> 1922-23	*Edward N. Scheiberling <i>New York</i> 1944-45	*John E. Davis <i>North Dakota</i> 1966-67	Hon. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke <i>North Dakota</i> 1988-89
*John R. Quinn <i>California</i> 1923-24	*John Stelle <i>Illinois</i> 1945-46	William E. Galbraith <i>Nebraska</i> 1967-68	Miles S. Epling <i>West Virginia</i> 1989-90
*James A. Drain <i>District of Columbia</i> 1924-25	*Paul H. Griffith <i>Pennsylvania</i> 1946-47	*William C. Doyle <i>New Jersey</i> 1968-69	Robert S. Turner <i>Georgia</i> 1990-91
*John R. McQuigg <i>Ohio</i> 1925-26	*James F. O'Neil <i>New Hampshire</i> 1947-48	*J. Milton Patrick <i>Oklahoma</i> 1969-70	Dominic D. DiFrancesco <i>Pennsylvania</i> 1991-92
*Howard P. Savage <i>Illinois</i> 1926-27	*Perry Brown <i>Texas</i> 1948-49	*Alfred R. Chamie <i>California</i> 1970-71	*Roger A. Munson <i>Ohio</i> 1992-93
*Edward E. Spafford <i>New York</i> 1927-28	*George N. Craig <i>Indiana</i> 1949-50	John H. Geiger <i>Illinois</i> 1971-72	Bruce Thiesen <i>California</i> 1993-94
*Paul V. McNutt <i>Indiana</i> 1928-29	*Erle Cocke Jr. <i>Georgia</i> 1950-51	Joe L. Matthews <i>Texas</i> 1972-73	William Detweiler <i>Louisiana</i> 1994-95
*O. Lee Bodenhamer <i>Arkansas</i> 1929-30	*Donald R. Wilson <i>West Virginia</i> 1951-52	*Robert E.L. Eaton <i>Maryland</i> 1973-74	Daniel Ludwig <i>Minnesota</i> 1995-96
*Ralph T. O'Neill <i>Kansas</i> 1930-31	*Lewis K. Gough <i>California</i> 1952-53	*James M. Wagonseller <i>Ohio</i> 1974-75	Joseph J. Frank <i>Missouri</i> 1996-97
*Henry L. Stevens Jr. <i>North Carolina</i> 1931-32	*Arthur J. Connell <i>Connecticut</i> 1953-54	*Harry G. Wiles <i>Kansas</i> 1975-76	Anthony G. Jordan <i>Maine</i> 1997-98
*Louis A. Johnson <i>West Virginia</i> 1932-33	*Seaborn P. Collins <i>New Mexico</i> 1954-55	William J. Rogers <i>Maine</i> 1976-77	Butch Miller <i>Virginia</i> 1998-99
*Edward A. Hayes <i>Illinois</i> 1933-34	*J. Addington Wagner <i>Michigan</i> 1955-56	*Robert Charles Smith <i>Louisiana</i> 1977-78	Al Lance <i>Idaho</i> 1999-00
*Frank N. Belgrano Jr. <i>California</i> 1934-35	*Dan Daniel <i>Virginia</i> 1956-57	John M. Carey <i>Michigan</i> 1978-79	Ray G. Smith <i>North Carolina</i> 2000-01
*Ray Murphy <i>Iowa</i> 1935-36	*John S. Gleason Jr. <i>Illinois</i> 1957-58	*Frank I. Hamilton <i>Indiana</i> 1979-80	Richard J. Santos <i>Maryland</i> 2001-02
*Harry W. Colmery <i>Kansas</i> 1936-37	Preston J. Moore <i>Oklahoma</i> 1958-59	Michael J. Kogutak <i>New York</i> 1980-81	Ronald F. Conley <i>Pennsylvania</i> 2002-03
*Daniel J. Doherty <i>Massachusetts</i> 1937-38	*Martin B. McKneally <i>New York</i> 1959-60	*Jack W. Flynt <i>Texas</i> 1981-82	
*Stephen F. Chadwick <i>Washington</i> 1938-39	*William R. Burke <i>California</i> 1960-61	*Al Keller Jr. <i>Illinois</i> 1982-83	
*Raymond J. Kelly <i>Michigan</i> 1939-40	*Charles L. Bacon <i>Missouri</i> 1961-62	Keith Kreul <i>Wisconsin</i> 1983-84	

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS BY VOTE OF NATIONAL CONVENTION

*Bennett Champ Clark <i>Missouri—Presided at Paris Caucus, March 1919</i>	*Henry D. Lindsley <i>Texas—Presided at St. Louis Caucus, May 1919</i>	*Eric Fisher Wood <i>Pennsylvania — Temporary Chairman and Secretary at Paris Caucus</i>	*Maurice Stember <i>New York</i>
*Milton J. Foreman <i>Illinois—Chairman, Executive Committee at Paris</i>	*Theodore Roosevelt Jr. <i>New York</i>	*Thomas W. Miller <i>Nevada — Chairman Pro Tempore Paris Caucus, March 1919</i>	*Hamilton Fish <i>New York 1979</i>
			*E. Roy Stone Jr. <i>South Carolina 1987</i>

HONORARY NATIONAL COMMANDERS

*Gen. John J. Pershing	*Marshal Ferdinand Foch
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*Deceased, **Killed in auto accident, ***Elected by Executive Committee to fill unexpired term

Distinguished Service Medal Recipients

The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal is awarded after nominations are presented by the national commander or by department action. The medal of 10-kt. gold consists of a special bar inscribed with the words, "Distinguished Service" and a ribbon with "Distinguished Service" in bold letters, super-imposed on a rose gold matte background. The reverse side of the medallion features the name of the recipient. The medal is awarded once a year, at the national convention, in recognition for outstanding service to the nation and to a program of The American Legion.

1921 Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France Adm. Earl Beatty of Great Britain Gen. Baron Jacques of Belgium Gen. Armando Diaz of Italy Charles Bertrand of France	1951 Gen. Charles P. Summerall	1979 Thomas A. Murphy
1922 Gen. John J. Pershing	1953 Rep. Royal C. Johnson*	1980 President Gerald R. Ford Dead & Missing of the Vietnam War
1923 Adm. Robert E. Coontz Gen. Josef Haller of Poland	1954 Maj. Gen. George A. White*	1981 American Space Shuttle Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen
1926 Ignace Jan Paderewski of Poland	1955 Dr. Jonas E. Salk Maj. Gen. Ellard A. Walsh	1982 President Ronald W. Reagan
1927 Comte Francois Marie Robert Dejean of France	1956 Vice Adm. Joel T. Boone Charles Stewart Mott	1983 Adm. Hyman C. Rickover
1928 Field Marshal Viscount Allenby of Great Britain	1957 Gen. Mark W. Clark The Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen	1984 Sen. J. Strom Thurmond
1929 Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis	1958 Bernard Mannes Baruch Unknown Servicemen of WWI, WWII and Korea, interred at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery	1985 Hon. Caspar W. Weinberger Fleet Adm. William F. Halsey Jr.*
1930 Adm. William S. Sims	1959 Sen. Robert S. Kerr	1987 Hon. William H. Webster
1942 Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur	1961 President John F. Kennedy	1988 Douglas Edwards
1943 Gen. George C. Marshall Adm. Ernest J. King	1962 Gen. Lucius D. Clay Dr. Thomas A. Dooley*	1989 Hon. Howard H. Baker Jr.
1944 Hon. Frank Knox* Henry Ford Gen. H.H. Arnold	1963 Francis Cardinal Spellman	1990 Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.
1945 President Franklin D. Roosevelt Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr.* Ernest (Ernie) Pyle* Hon. Henry L. Stimson Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower	1964 Dr. Charles W. Mayo	1991 President George H.W. Bush
1946 J. Edgar Hoover Bob Hope William Randolph Hearst Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey Hon. Cordell Hull	1965 President Herbert C. Hoover* Hon. James F. Byrnes	1992 Richard Thornburgh
1947 Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen Sen. Edward Martin Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson	1966 Capt. Roger H.C. Donlon	1993 Gen. Colin Powell
1949 President Harry S. Truman George Herman (Babe) Ruth* Maj. Gen. Frank Parker*	1967 Hon. Tom C. Clark	1994 Walter Annenburg
1950 Charles F. Johnson Jr. Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers	1968 President Lyndon B. Johnson Gen. William C. Westmoreland	1995 Crew of the Enola Gay (Paul W. Tibbets, Dutch Van Kirk, Tom Ferebee, Dick Nelson and Bob Carron*)
	1969 President Richard M. Nixon	1996 Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery
	1970 Rep. Olin E. Teague	1997 Sen. Robert J. Dole
	1971 Rep. L. Mendel Rivers* Sen. Richard B. Russell*	1998 None
	1972 Sen. John C. Stennis Dewitt Wallace	1999 Zachary Fisher*
	1974 Hon. Henry A. Kissinger Rep. F. Edward Hebert	2000 Sen. Orrin Hatch
	1975 Harry W. Colmery	2001 Gen. Henry H. Shelton
	1976 Pat O'Brien	2002 Rep. Bob Stump
	1977 Howard A. Rusk, M.D.	2003 Drs. Jeanne Mager Stellman and Steven Stellman
	1978 Bowie K. Kuhn	

**awarded posthumously*

American Legion Auxiliary Annual Report

For eight decades, American Legion Auxiliary members have earned a big-hearted reputation for their devotion to America's veterans, families, and communities.

National President Katherine Morris' theme for 2003-04, "H.E.A.R.T.S. in Service," perfectly captures that spirit of unselfish giving. During Department visits and when she's asked to speak at gatherings, the National President is most comfortable speaking from the heart. Her message is simple: The American Legion Family is having a fantastic year!

Her commitment to including The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion in all Auxiliary endeavors shines through in the National President's theme.

Let's look at the concepts behind the H.E.A.R.T.S. acronym:

"H" stands for "Helping Hands." The women of the American Legion Auxiliary are strong, capable ladies who have stood by The American Legion's programs and purposes for more than 80 years. When a member of Congress receives a letter, phone call, fax or e-mail about an important issue like the need to make VA health-care funding a mandatory budget item, it's more than likely that an Auxiliary member wrote the letter, stuffed the envelope, made the call or hit the "send" button that delivered the message.

The second letter in H.E.A.R.T.S. stands for "Educating our Youth."

The Auxiliary emphasizes programs that bolster the family, promote traditional American values, and meet the physical and spiritual needs of the nation's children.

In addition to youth scholarship programs, the Auxiliary assists America's children through its popular Girls State and Girls Nation programs, "Focus on the Flag" studies, National Family Week, drug and alcohol prevention efforts, the fight against Internet pornography and other youth protection programs.

National President Morris believes patriotism and history studies are lessons all young Americans should understand.



Katherine Morris
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National President



Sandi Dutton
Maryland
National Vice President



Peggy Sappenfield
Indiana
National Secretary



Marta Hedding
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Penny Maklary
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Western Division



Ann Fournier
Massachusetts
National Chaplain



Bernice Snead
Connecticut
National Historian

"When it comes to educating our youth, the first thing I'd teach them is to love their country," Morris said.

The "A" in H.E.A.R.T.S. stands for "Achieving Membership Goals."

Nationally, Auxiliary leadership continues emphasizing the Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) program, and Department chairmen are redoubling efforts to channel DMS-acquired members to Units near their hometowns.

National President Morris' "Angels in Action" membership campaign included her special "Recruit 3" award. American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members who recruit three Auxiliary members earn their wings and special "Recruit 3" lapel pin.

Just as membership provides the heartbeat that makes the American Legion Auxiliary thrive, veterans are at the heart of everything our members do for America, so the "R" in H.E.A.R.T.S. in Service stands for "Rehabilitation of our Veterans."

In addition to serving as the backbone of the VA Voluntary Services system, American Legion Auxiliary members are proud their organization is entering its fifth year as national co-sponsor of VA's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Last year, nearly 3,000 veterans from 103 VA facilities entered art, music, drama and dance during local competitions that stressed the healing power of the arts. Members obviously believe in the festival, because by late April donations already topped \$65,000 and well on the way to exceeding the annual goal, \$75,000.

A special treat this year came when National President Morris hosted 15 talented veterans who performed at the Auxiliary's Awareness Assembly in Washington, D.C., in March.

The "T" in H.E.A.R.T.S. stands for, "Total Commitment."

And commitment will lead to the "S" in H.E.A.R.T.S., which is, "Success in all Our Endeavors."

Last year alone, our members contributed \$13.4 million to programs benefiting veterans, children and Community Service programs.

Members also donated 5 million hours of service in all endeavors, serving nearly 3 million of their fellow citizens.

Yes, American Legion Auxiliary members have big hearts, and those hearts beat fervently in tune with their National President.

84th Annual Convention American Legion Auxiliary

Nashville, Tenn.

August 27-September 2, 2004

All events are in the Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Friday, Aug. 27

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

National Junior Registration

Ryman Exhibit Hall C2, Level 0

Saturday, Aug. 28

8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting

Presidential Ballroom CE, Level 2

8:15-8:45 a.m.

National Junior Registration

Ryman Exhibit Hall C2, Level 0

9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

National Junior Meeting

Cheekwood ABC

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Pre-Convention Committee Meetings

Group A, Presidential Ballroom CE Level 2

Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund,
Community Service

Group B, Presidential Ballroom B, Level 2

Children & Youth, Liaison to the Child Welfare
Foundation, Education, Girls State

Group C, Presidential Ballroom A, Level 2

Junior Activities, Cavalcade of Memories,
National Security, Public Relations

Group D, Tennessee Ballroom A, Level 2

Legislative. Past Presidents Parley, Poppy

Group E, Canal D, Level M

Chaplains, Historians, Leadership, Unit
Development & Revitalization

Group F, Presidential Chamber A, Level 2

Constitution & Bylaws, Rules

Group G, Tennessee Ballroom B, Level 2

Membership

Group H, Bayou B, Level M

Credentials, Resolutions

Group I, Canal C, Level M

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Group J, Bayou A, Level M

Finance

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Junior Division Caucuses

Central Division

Cheekwood ABC

Eastern Division

Belle Meade CD

Northwestern Division

Belle Meade A

Southern Division

Cheekwood F

Western Division

Cheekwood D

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Senior Division Caucuses

Central Division

Presidential Ballroom CE

Eastern Division

Presidential Ballroom A

Northwestern Division

Presidential Ballroom B

Southern Division

Tennessee Ballroom C

Western Division

Canal CD

2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

National Junior Meeting

Cheekwood ABC

4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Junior/SAL Social

Sunday, Aug. 29

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

National Junior Meeting

Cheekwood ABC

8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Pages Rehearsal

Presidential Ballroom, Level 2

11 a.m.

Joint Patriotic Memorial Service

Delta Ballroom, Level 2

4:30 p.m.

National Convention Parade

Monday, Aug. 30

Presidential Ballroom

8:15 a.m.

Prelude

Marie Boedeker

Pianist

8:30 a.m.

Opening Processional

Announced by Lynda Gibson

Convention Chairman

Advancement of Department and National Colors

Introduction of National President

Lynda Gibson

Convention Chairman

Call to Order

Katherine Morris, *National President*

Invocation

Ann Fournier, *National Chaplain*

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Sharon Conatser

Americanism Chairman

National Anthem

India Lee Archer

Junior Member, Department of New Mexico

Preamble to the Constitution

Jacklyn Skinner

Constitution and Bylaws Chairman

Welcome

Katherine Morris, *National President*

Amazing Grace

India Lee Archer

Texas Girls State Flag Ceremony

Introductions

Charlane Collins-Dew

Chairman of Pages

Sharon Rogers

Vice Chairman of Pages

Donna Dillard

National President's Page

Diana King

National President's Page

June Morris

National President's Page

Vaudine Wilson

National President's Page

Syble Deshotel

Chairman, Distinguished Guests Committee

Pat Wanorek, *Vice Chairman*

Distinguished Guests Committee

Carol Young, *Member,*

Distinguished Guests Committee

Marie Boedeker

Convention Pianist

Marjorie Vinzant Weber

Convention Parliamentarian

Greetings

Jolie Brock

President, American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Tennessee

Lynda Gibson

National Convention Chairman

Margaret Sheridan

Le Chapeau National, Eight and Forty

Elsie Bailey

Past National President

Credentials Report

Mary Ann Ventulett, *Chairman*

Rules Report

Marian Odell, *Chairman*

Nashville



84th Annual Convention American Legion Auxiliary (cont.)

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion

Neal C. Warnken
National Commander

Citizens Flag Alliance

Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady (U.S. Army Ret.)
Chairman of the Board

Americanism Report

Sharon Conatser, *Chairman*

2004 Girl Scout Achievement

Award Recipient
Katherine A. Finlay

Junior Activities Report

Mary Harper, *Chairman*

Emma Manning

Honorary National Junior President

Introduction of 2004-2005

Honorary National Junior President

Girls State Report

Jan Pulvermacher, *Chairman*

Introduction of 2004 Girls Nation President

Poppy Report

Beverly Otterness, *Chairman*

Introduction of Miss Poppy 6-12

Stephanie Dippman
Department of Ohio

Introduction of Miss Poppy 13-18

Ashley Renea Jones
Department of Tennessee

Josh and Friends

Dr. Randy Lange

Children and Youth Report

JoAnn Cronin, *Chairman*

Liaison to the Child Welfare

Pearl Behrend, *Chairman*

Foundation Report

Garland Murphy Award Award Presentation

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

Greetings

J. B. Loring, *President*
The American Legion 2004 Convention Corporation

Robert Spanogle, *National Adjutant*
The American Legion

John A. Brieden III, *National Commander*
The American Legion

Past Presidents Parley Report

Elsie Bailey, *Chairman*

Presentation of American Legion Auxiliary

Women Veteran Honorees

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Report

Denise Delaney, *Chairman*

Cavalcade of Memories Report

Phyllis Bachman, *Chairman*

Memorial Service

Conducted by National Chaplain, Ann Fournier

RECESS

Tuesday, Aug. 31

Presidential Ballroom

8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Katherine Morris, *National President*

Invocation

Ann Fournier, *National Chaplain*

Nomination of National Officers

National Security Report

Desi Stoy, *Chairman*

Public Relations Report

Patricia Kranzow, *Chairman*

Constitution and Bylaws Report

Jacklyn Skinner, *Chairman*

Consideration of proposed amendments

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Report

Carol Van Kirk, *Chairman*

Introduction of American Legion Auxiliary

VAVS Volunteer of the Year

Introduction of Warren Weldon, artist

Drawing

Elizabeth Mackey, *National Director*
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

The Hon. Anthony Principi

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

RECESS

12:30 p.m.

Past Department Presidents Luncheon

Tennessee Ballroom

Wednesday Sept. 1

Presidential Ballroom

8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Katherine Morris, *National President*

Invocation

Ann Fournier, *National Chaplain*

Membership Report

Ruth Proctor, *Chairman*

Introduction of Goal Department Presidents

Introduction of Recruiter of the Year

Election of National Officers

Legislative Report

Peggy Thomas, *Chairman*

Leadership Report

Rita Navarrete, *Chairman*

Historian's Report

Bernice Snead, *National Historian*

Chaplain's Report

Ann Fournier, *National Chaplain*

Finance Report

Anna Gear, *Chairman*

Education Report

Carlene Ashworth, *Chairman*

Community Service Report

Elaine Walmsley, *Chairman*

Unit Development and Revitalization Report

Flora Jean Craig, *Chairman*

Introduction of Local Convention Committees

Stephen Dammann, *Senior Vice President*
American Legion Auxiliary Member Benefits

Aon Association Services Division

Report of the National President

Presentation of National President's

Scrapbook

Vaundine Wilson

Report of the Election Committee

Introduction of National Officers for 2004-2005

Resolutions Report

Recessional of Colors

RECESS

7 p.m.

States Dinner

Presidential Ballroom

Thursday Sept. 2

Presidential Ballroom

8:30 a.m.

Installation of 2004-2005 National Officers

Presentation of pin and ribbon to retiring National President

Presentation of Colors to retiring National President

Retirement of National Colors

Adjournment of National Convention

Post-Convention National Executive

Committee Meeting

Governor's Ballroom CD

(Immediately following the adjournment of National Convention)

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83rd Annual La Marche Nationale La Boutique Nationale Des Huit Chapeaux Et Quarante Femmes

REGISTRATION

All packets are to be picked up at the registration desk, Eight and Forty Headquarters Office, Governor's Registration Desk, Monday, Aug. 30, until Sept. 4. Hours will be posted.

Emblem Sales and/or Stock Items

Emblem and/or stock items orders will be taken in the Eight and Forty Headquarters Office, Governor's Registration Desk, Aug. 30 until Sept. 4.

Distinguished Guests

All Distinguished Guests are to meet in the Governor's A & E, upon their arrival, to be presented.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Les Chapeaux Nationaux Passe Luncheon
11:30 a.m.

Pre Marche Committee Meetings

Governor's Chamber A Permanent Organization

Chairman, Reina Svacha
2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Children and Youth

Chairman, Linda Turner
2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Governor's Chamber B Credentials

Chairman, Donna Palmer
2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Resolutions

Chairman, Nora Novak
2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Constitution and Bylaws

Chairman, Charline Romig
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Jackson F

Nurses Scholarship

Chairman, Ruby Walker
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Partnership

Chairman, Marlys Exon
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Governor's Chamber C Publicity

Chairman, Marcy Schmidt
2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

L'Aumonier

Beverly Stites
2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Nashville, Tenn.
September 2-4, 2004



**Ms. Margaret
Sheridan**
*La Chapeau
Nationale*



**Ms. Elyline
Schweitzer**
*La Secretaire
Cassiere Nationale*

L'Archiviste

Mary Lou Chester
3 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Awards

Chairman, Louann Johnston
3:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Governor's Chamber D Ritual and Emblem

Chairman, Patricia Sherman
2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Rules and Order

Chairman, Jackie Owens
2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Handbook

Chairman, Eunice Staley
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Governor's A & E Pre-Marche Pouvoir

4:30 p.m.

Rehearsal for La Marche

6 p.m.
*La Concierge Frances Haydel, Le Marechals
Cindy Winske and Lorene Bartos and pages*

Leadership

Chairman, Karen Susag
7:30 p.m.

Governor's D

Candidates Reception
9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Governor's A & E

La Marche Nationale

Opening Session

8:30 a.m.

Marche Chairman presiding opening

Presentation of Chapeaux Passe

Marie Smith	1977
Violet Aichholz	1981
Eunice Staley	1983
Elyline Schweitzer	1984
Helene Mardu	1985
Jean Hayes	1987
Edith Still	1989
Donna Baley	1990
Elsie Hemphill	1991
Dorothy Brady	1992
Colleen Stephens	1993
Virginia Kates	1994
Mille H. Nierman	1995
Elizabeth B. Lori	1996
Ivy Christoffers	1997
Reina Svacha	1998
Wanda North	1999
Helen Goewey	2001
Venita Holthaus	2002
Donna Morice	2003

Presentation of National Officers

*Escorted by La Concierge Frances Haydel,
Le Marechals and La Marche Pages*

Elyline Schweitzer

La Secretaire-Caissiere Nationale

Dorothy Brady

L'Avocate Nationale

Beverly Stites

L'Aumonier National

Mary Lou Chester

L'Archiviste Nationale

Les Divisional Demi Chapeaux

Central Division

Frances Swensen

Eastern Division

Dorothea Warrick

Northwestern Division

Dixie Parsons

Southern Division

Loretta Smith

Western Division

Audrey June Woodard

Irene Stidham

Le Demi Chapeau National

Margaret Sheridan

Le Chapeau National

Call to Order

Margaret Sheridan

Le Chapeau National

Advancement of Colors

Frances Haydel

La Concierge National

Cindy Winske and Lorene Bartos

Les Marechals

Invocation

Beverly Stites

L'Aumonier National

Pledge of Allegiance

Frances Haydel

La Concierge Nationale

National Anthem

Phyllis J. Hardin

Marche Pianist

Flanders Field

Audrey Woodard

Western Division Demi Chapeau

America's Answer

Frances Swensen

Central Division Demi Chapeau

Response

Margaret Sheridan

Le Chapeau National

Roll call

Elyline Schweitzer

La Secretaire Nationale

Reading of the Call to

2004 LaMarche Nationale

Elyline Schweitzer

La Secretaire Nationale

Report of the Minutes Committee for

2003 National Marche

Elsie Hemphill

Chairman

Presentation of Distinguished Guests

John A. Brieden III

National Commander

The American Legion

Katherine Morris

National President

American Legion Auxiliary

Thomas Cadmus

National Commander-Elect

The American Legion

Clinton Thompson

National Vice Commander

The American Legion

Sandi Dutton

National Vice President

American Legion Auxiliary

Robert Spanogle

National Adjutant

The American Legion

Peggy Sappenfield

National Secretary

American Legion Auxiliary

Marta Hedding

National Treasurer

American Legion Auxiliary

JoAnn Cronin

National Children & Youth Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary

Elmer Furhop

Children & Youth Chairman

The American Legion

William Pease

Executive Secretary

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

Jason Kees

Assistant Deputy Director,

Americanism/Children Youth

The American Legion

Lynda Gibson

Convention Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary

Hon. Phil Bredezen

Governor of Tennessee

Bill Purcell

Mayor of Nashville

Jennings B. Loring

President of 2004 Convention Corp.

The American Legion

Ralph J. Reel

Tennessee NEC

The American Legion

Lynda Winkles

Tennessee NEC

American Legion Auxiliary

Bassom Barrett

Department Commander

The American Legion of Tennessee

Jolie Brock

Department President

American Legion Auxiliary of Tennessee

Neal C. Wamken

National Commander

Sons of The American Legion

Kara Schorman

Catering Manager

Gaylord Opryland

Helen Steinberg

Coordinator, National Jewish Medical
and Research Center

Introduction of Chapeau Nationaux Passes

Margaret Sheridan

Le Chapeau National

Speaking for the Chapeau Nationaux Passe

Donna Morice

Immediate Chapeau National Passe

Report of Special Committees

Rules and Order

Chairman, Jackie Owens

Permanent Organization

Chairman, Reina Svacha

Song

Report of Divisional Demi Chapeau Nationaux and Introduction of Les Chapeau Departmentaux

Central Division

Frances Swensen

Eastern Division

Dorothea Warrick

Northwestern Division

Dixie Parsons

Southern Division

Loretta Smith

Western Division

Audrey June Woodard

Report of National Officers for 2003-2004

Le Chapeau National

Margaret Sheridan

Le Demi Chapeau National

Irene Stidham

L'Archiviste Nationale

Mary Lou Chester

L'Avocate Nationale

Dorothy Brady

La Secretaire-Caissiere Nationale

Elyline Schweitzer

Nomination of National Officers for 2004-2005

NOON - RECESS

Divisional Luncheon and Caucuses 11:30 a.m.

Central Division

Governor's Chambers A

Eastern Division

Governors' Chambers B

Northwestern Division

Governor's Chambers C

Southern Division

Governor's Chambers D

Western Division

Governor's Chambers E

Nashville



83rd Annual La Marche Nationale La Boutique Nationale Des Huit Chapeaux Et Quarante Femmes (cont.)

La Marche Nationale

Second Session

2 p.m.

Report of Standing Committees and Introduction of Regional or Divisional Chairmen

Children and Youth

Chairman Linda Turner

Finance

Chairman Violet Aichholz

Hat Box

Chairman, Violet Montgomery

Nurses Scholarship

Chairman Ruby Walker

Partnership

Chairman Marlys Exon

Rituals and Emblems

Chairman Patricia Sherman

Constitution and Bylaws

Chairman Charline Romig

Awards Chairman

Louann Johnston

Advisory Committee

Chairman Venita Holthaus

Handbook Committee

Chairman Eunice Staley

Leadership Committee

Chairman Karen Susag

Publicity Chairman

Marcy Schmidt

Song

Presentation of Local Marche Committees

RECESS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

La Marche Nationale

Third Session

Memorial Service

9 a.m.

In Memoriam

Beverly Stites

L'Aumonier National

Prelude

Phyllis Hardin

Musicienne

Processional

Les Chapeaux Nationaux Passes

Les Demi Chapeaux Divisionaux

Advancing Memorial Book

Irene Stidham

Le Demi Chapeau National

Lighting of Memorial Candle

Prayer

Beverly Stites

L'Aumonier National

Musical Selection

Carol Hass, Departemental d' Indiana

Tribute to Deceased Partners

Margaret Sheridan, Le Chapeau National

Tribute to All Partners Entering Eternal Rest 2003-2004

Central Division

Frances Swensen

Eastern Division

Dorothea Warrick

Northwestern Division

Dixie Parsons

Southern Division

Loretta Smith

Western Division

Audrey June Woodard

Response

Beverly Stites

L'Aumonier National

Musical Selection

Carol Hass

Call to Salon Eternal

Mary Lou Chester

L'Archiviste Nationale

Answering Call to Salon Eternal

Frances Haydel

La Concierge Nationale

Musical Selection

Carol Hass and Assembly

Benediction

Beverly Stites

L'Aumonier National

Recessional

Phyllis Hardin

Musicienne

*(Audience remain seated until after the
recessional. Please refrain from taking
pictures until the conclusion of the service.)*

Report of L'Aumonier National

Beverly Stites

Report of Special Marche Committees

Resolutions

Nora Novak

Maryland

Registration

Veronica Spence

California

Credentials

Donna Palmer

Michigan

Election of Officers for 2004-2005

Presentation of Distinguished Guests

Mille Nierman, Chairman

Elizabeth Lori, Vice Chairman

Susan Caswell

Donna Beck

Mary Ann Kearns

Report of the La Concierge

Frances Haydel

Frances Haydel, present the Les Marechals

Presentation of Les Marechals

Cindy Winske, Indiana

Lorene Bartos, Nebraska

Presentation of National Pages

Chairman, Connie Haynes, Indiana

Vice Chairman, Rose Renn, Kentucky

Pages

Rita Fitzsimmons - Massachusetts

Cheryl Jensen - Utah

Betty Jo Keiffer - Missouri

Peggy Rogers - Washington

Presentation of Personal Pages

Personal Page

To Le Chapeau National

Trudy Chisholm - Idaho

Patty Pierce - Idaho

Personal Page

To La Secretaire-Caissiere Nationale

Martha Benson - California

Personal Page

To Recorder Irene Belanger

Maxine Dale - California

Song

**Ratification of Election Les Divisional
Demi Chapeaux Nationaux**

**Introduction of Les Divisional Demi
Chapeaux and Pinning by Outgoing Les
Divisional Demi Chapeaux
Report of Judge Elections**

**Presentation of Newly Elected Officers
for 2004-2005**

Unfinished Business

New Business

Musical Selection

RECESS

Post Marche Pouvoir
(One half hour after recess of Third Session)

**La Marche Banquet
Governor's A&E**
7 p.m.

Processional of Guests
Banquet Chairman - Joanne Snodgrass

Invocation
L'Aumonier Beverly Stites

Pledge of Allegiance
La Concierge Frances Haydel

National Anthem
Phyllis J. Hardin
Pianist

Welcome
Joanne Snodgrass
Banquet Chairman

Response
Irene Stidham
Le Demi Chapeau National

Dinner

Introduction of guests
National Chapeau
Margaret Sheridan

Entertainment

RECESS

Installation of 2004-2005

National Officers
Installing Officer - Ivy Christoffers
Installing L'Aumonier - Cayauna Mitchell
Installing La Concierge - Pauline Hardy

**Presentation of Le Chapeau National
Passe Pin to Margaret Sheridan**
Dorothy Brady, Le Chapeau National Passé

**Presentation of Le Chapeau National Pin
to Irene Stidham**
By Cayauna Mitchell

Remarks by Le Chapeau National Elect
Irene Stidham

Remarks by Le Chapeau National
Margaret Sheridan

Benediction
L'Aumonier Beverly Stites

Retirement of Colors
La Concierge Frances Haydel

Retirement of Le Chapeau National
Margaret Sheridan

**Adjournment of 2004 La Marche
Nationale**

Receiving Line for 2004-2005 Officers

Special Marche Committees
Chairman of Pages
Vice Chairman of Pages
Le Marechal
Cindy Winske - *Indiana*
Le Marechal
Lorene Bartos - *Nebraska*

Pages
Rita Fitzsimmons - *Massachusetts*
Connie Hayes - *Indiana*
Cheryl Jensen - *Utah*
Betty Jo Keiffer - *Missouri*
Rose Renn - *Kentucky*
Peggy Rogers - *Washington*

Distinguished Guests
Chairman, Mille Nierman, Washington
Vice Chairman, Elizabeth Lori, New Jersey
Members
Susan Caswell, Alaska
Donna Beck, Minnesota
Mary Ann Kearns, Florida
All National Chapeau Passé

Credentials
Donna Palmer
Chairman, *Michigan*
Lorraine Bardwell
New York
Ivy Christoffers
Maryland

Permanent Organization
Reina Svacha
Chairman, *Michigan*
Willie Mae Looney
Alabama
Mary Packer
Idaho

Registration
Veronica Spence
Chairman - *California*
Bonnie Louder
Kansas
Evelyn Roderick
Missouri

Resolutions
Nora Novak
Chairman, *Maryland*
Pauline Hardy
Vermont
Terri Harter
Washington

Rules and Order
Jackie Owens
Chairman, *South Dakota*
Hanny Elston
Washington
Jan Martinka
Illinois

Judge of Elections
Mickie Prendergast - *Texas*

Tellers
Lorene Berg - *Alaska*
Phyllis Keeley - *Oklahoma*
Mary Lahaie - *Texas*

Personal Pages to Le Chapeau National
Trudy Chisholm - *Idaho*
Patty Pierce - *Idaho*

**Personal Page to La Secretaire-Caissiere
Nationale**
Martha Benson - *California*

Personal Page to Recorder
Maxine Dale - *California*

Musicienne
Phyllis J. Hardin - *Washington*

La Marche Recorder
Irene Belanger - *California*

**2004 La Marche National Local
Committees**

La Marche Chairman
Elyline Schweitzer
La Marche Vice Chairman
Margaret Sheridan
La Secretaire - Caissiere
Elyline Schweitzer
Banquet Chairman
Joanne Snodgrass
Halls & Seating Chairman
Veronica Spence and California Partners
Decorations & Favors Chairman
Trudy Chisholm

Nashville



33rd Annual National Convention Sons of The American Legion

With all our successes, we still have work to do.

Welcome to the 33rd Annual Convention of The Son of The American Legion here in Nashville, Tenn.

American Legion National Commander John Brieden, American Legion Auxiliary President Katherine Morris and I have worked hand in hand this year promoting various Legion programs, including the Creative Arts Festival, the 50th Anniversary of the Child Welfare Foundation, Children's Miracle Network and the World War II Memorial Dedication. I would like to thank both National Commander Brieden and National President Morris for allowing me to work with them as a team to promote all of these programs. It was indeed an honor to have our joint picture appear in both *The American Legion Magazine* and the American Legion Auxiliary's *National News*. This was a first for all three organizations showing our commitment to promote The American Legion Family.

Our theme for the year was "Building a Better Tomorrow." With the successes that we have had this year, we are well on our way to achieving this goal. These successes include raising over a half million dollars for children and youth programs, contributing countless hours to VA hospitals and veterans homes, and growing our membership.

One goal that our organization has strived to meet is to raise \$1 per member for the Child Welfare Foundation. I would like to thank all of you and congratulate you for obtaining that goal this year. As an organization, we have raised over \$300,000 this year, making us the largest single contributor to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

With all these successes, we still have plenty of work to do. We need to stay focused on the core values of our organization, which is to aid veterans and their families. With the current world situation, the number of veterans is growing. They and their families need our support and help. The funds



Neal C. Warnken
Kansas
National Commander



Brian J. O'Hearne
Massachusetts
National Adjutant

that we raise certainly are one way of helping them. Another way that we could help, back at the local levels, is to support the families in our communities while their loved ones are away.

It has been an exciting year serving as your National Commander. I have enjoyed traveling across the country this year and meeting with many of the blue-cap members. Seeing the many varied ways that each of you supports our troops, communities and the Legion family has been an inspiration. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your National Commander. It has been an honor.

For God and Country,

— Neal Warnken
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

REGISTRATION

SAL Registration of National Convention Delegates and Alternates

Thursday, Aug. 26 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 27 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 28 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 29 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

SAL Convention Committee Meetings

Friday, Aug. 27 4 p.m.

SAL National Executive Committee Meetings

Friday, Aug. 27 3 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 29 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 27, 2004

Pre-Convention NEC Meeting 3 p.m.
33rd Annual National Convention .. 6 p.m.

Opening Ceremony

Call to Order

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

Advancement of Colors

Essex Squadron 148
Essex, Md.
2003 National Color Guard Champions

Invocation

Thomas Wigmore (Mass.)
National Chaplain

POW/MIA Ceremony

Essex Squadron 148
Essex, Md.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lyle Larson (Kan.)
National Sergeant-at-Arms

Preamble to the Constitution of the SAL

William L. Sparwasser (Md.)
National Vice Commander (East)

Blue Star Banner Ceremony

Lyle Larson (Kan.)
National Sergeant-at-Arms

Address

John A. Brieden III (Texas)
National Commander
The American Legion

National Memorial Service

Thomas Wigmore (Mass.)
National Chaplain

Reading of the Convention Call

Brian J. O'Hearne (Mass.)
National Adjutant

Address

Katherine Morris (Texas)
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary
Emma Manning (Kan.)
Honorary National Junior President
The American Legion Auxiliary

Roll Call

Brian J. O'Hearne (Mass.)
National Adjutant

Address of Welcome

Edward Wallace (Tenn.)
Chairman, National Convention Committee

Opening Remarks

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

Introduction of Past National

**Commanders for Presentation of
Distinguished Guest Convention Badges**

Establishment of Convention Committees**First Report of Legislative
and Rules Committee**

George Evans (Ind.)
Chairman, National Legislative Commission

**Constitution and By-Laws
Committee Report**

Earl Ruttkofsky (Mich.)
Chairman, Convention Constitution and
By-Laws Committee

National Vice Commanders Reports

William L. Sparwasser (Md.)
National Vice Commander (East)

Harry "Mike" Means (Ky.)
National Vice Commander (South)

Frederick E. Reis (Ill.)
National Vice Commander (Central)

Louis "Rick" Baldessari (Colo.)
National Vice Commander (Midwest)

Timothy M. Delgado (Calif.)
National Vice Commander (West)

Salute to the Colors**Recess****SATURDAY, AUG. 28, 2004****33rd National Convention Reconvenes
9 a.m.****Call to Order**

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

Salute to the Colors**Invocation**

Thomas Wigmore (Mass.)
National Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance

Frederick E. Reis (Ill.)
National Vice Commander (Central)

Preamble to the Constitution of the SAL

Timothy M. Delgado (Calif.)
National Vice Commander (West)

Roll Call

Brian J. O'Hearne (Mass.)
National Adjutant

First Report of Credentials Committee

Harold Thompson (Neb.)
Chairman, Convention Credentials Committee

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Committee Report****Presentation of Veterans Affairs and
Rehabilitation Commission Awards**

Presented by David Dew (Texas)
Chairman, National VA&R Commission
Kirby Kepler Memorial Award – Squadron
Allen I. O'Brian Memorial Award – District
Earl Webster Memorial Award – Detachment
Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year
Award

Internal Affairs Committee Report

Kevin Collier (Alaska)
Chairman,
National Internal Affairs Commission

Finance Committee Report

Thomas Cisna (Ill.)
Chairman, National Finance Commission

**Presentation of National History Book
Contest Awards**

Presented by Wesley E. Wills (Kan.)
National Historian

**Presentation of the Community Service
Scrapbook Awards**

Presented by Andrew W. Newman (Pa.)
Chairman,
National Community Service Committee

Americanism Committee Report**Presentation of National Americanism
Awards**

Presented by Raymond Giehl Jr. (Ind.)
Chairman,
National Americanism Commission

**Gerald Atwood-Edward Beyea-Raymond
York Memorial Awards**

Squadron
District
Detachment

Address

Peggy Sappenfield (Ind.)
National Secretary
The American Legion Auxiliary

Legislative and Rules Committee**Final Report**

George Evans (Ind.)
Chairman, National Legislative Commission

**Introduction of The American Legion
Youth Award Winners****Recess until 1 p.m.****33rd National Convention Reconvenes
3 p.m.****Call to Order**

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

**Introduction of 2004 National
Sons of The American Legion
Color Guard Champions**

Presentation of the Clyde Stillwell Award
to the Color Guard Champions
Presented by Neal C. Warnken (Kan.),
National Commander

Children and Youth Committee Report**Presentation of National
Children and Youth Awards**

Presented by Joe Gladden (Md.)
Chairman,
National Children and Youth Commission

Nashville



33rd Annual National Convention Sons of the American Legion *(cont.)*

Child Welfare Foundation

Committee Awards

Presented by Harold Trombley (Vt.)
Chairman, National Child Welfare
Foundation Committee

Presentation of Garland F. Murphy Award

Presentation of National Membership Awards

Presented by Gary Swanlund (Wyo.)
Chairman, National Membership Committee
First Detachment in Region to 100% Awards
Hartline Award
Largest Squadron Award
Regional Renewal Awards
Houghton Awards
Blue Brigade Awards

Presentation of National Commander's Citations

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

Address

Robert W. Spanogle
National Adjutant, The American Legion

Recess

Area Caucuses

2 p.m. (or immediately following recess)

SUNDAY, AUG. 29, 2004

33rd National Convention Reconvenes 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

Salute to the Colors

Invocation

Thomas Wigmore (Mass.)
National Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance

Louis "Rick" Baldessari (Colo.)
National Vice Commander

Roll Call

Brian J. O'Hearne (Mass.)
National Adjutant

Final Report of the National Commander

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

Final Report of the Credentials Committee

Harold Thompson (Neb.)
Chairman
Convention Credentials Committee

Special Order of Business

Nominations of Sons of The American

Legion National Officers

Election of Officers:

National Commander
National Vice Commanders (5)
National Chaplain

Recess for Joint Memorial Service 10:30 a.m.

Joint Memorial Service 11 a.m.

33rd National Convention Reconvenes 12:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

Salute to the Colors

Installation of Newly Elected Officers

Benediction

Thomas Wigmore (Mass.)
National Chaplain

Retirement of Colors

New National SAL Color Guard Champion

Final Adjournment

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)
National Commander

National Executive Committee Post Convention Meeting

2 p.m. (or within 30 minutes of
adjournment of convention)

National Convention Parade 4 p.m.

2004 National Officers

National Commander

Neal C. Warnken (Kan.)

National Vice Commanders

William L. Sparwasser (Md.) East
Harry "Mike" Means (Ky.) South
Frederick E. Reis (Ill.) Central
Louis "Rick" Baldessari (Colo.) Midwest
Timothy M. Delgado (Calif.) West

National Adjutant

Brian J. O'Hearne (Mass.)

National Assistant Adjutants

Harold E. Thompson Jr. (Neb.)
Ed Sheubrooks (Fla.)
Clifford E. Hall (Mass.)
David Ridenour (Ind.)
Robert J. Avery (N.Y.)

National Chaplain

Thomas Wigmore (Mass.)

National Historian

Wesley E. Wills (Kan.)

National Judge Advocate

Joseph Paviglianti (N.Y.)

National Sergeant-at-Arms

Lyle Larson (Kan.)

National Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Tom Getz (Ohio)
Walter A. Robison (Md.)
Craig Dukes (N.C.)
Robert Fifield (Mass.)
Colin C. Crouch (Texas)

National Commander's Aide

Donald L. Culver (Kan.)

Past National Commanders

1968..... Michael Seaton (Calif.)
1969..... Robert McBride (Ohio)
1970..... J.R. Stillwell (Ill.)
1971..... J.R. Stillwell (Ill.)
1972..... John Smolinsky (Mass.)
1973..... Robert Faust (Calif.)
1974..... James Hartman (Md.)
1975..... Gregory Reis (Ill.)
1976..... Grant Jamieson (Mich.)
1977..... Charles Gannon (Md.)
1978..... John M. Sherrard (Calif.)
1979..... Richard Kepler (Fla.)
1980..... Ernest Wilson (N.J.)*
1981..... Donald Willson (Pa.)*
1982..... David P. Stephens (Ind.)
1983..... Christopher R. Cerullo (N.Y.)
1984..... Fred Hartline (Ohio)
1985..... Woodrow L. Mudge (Colo.)
1986..... Royce Doucet (La.)
1987..... Douglas Bible (Minn.)
1988..... Richard L. League (Md.)
1989..... David Faust (Wis.)
1990..... Charles R. Belles (Va.)
1991..... Robert A. Worrel (Ind.)
1992..... Eugene L. Sacco (Ore.)
1993..... Charles Rigsby (Mich.)*
1994..... Roland D. Matteson (Ariz.)
1995..... Joseph Mayne (Minn.)
1996..... John T. Dietz (Ky.)
1997..... Jack E. Jordan (Texas)
1998..... William E. Matoska (Md.)
1999..... Byron J. Robichaux (La.)
2000..... Richard L. Cook (Okla.)
2001..... Kevin N. Winkelmann (Texas)
2002..... Clifford A. Smith (Mass.)
2003..... Steve C. Laws (N.C.)

* Deceased

ANNUAL REPORTS



2004 Annual Report



Covers the period ending June 1, 2004

The following pages of this official program of the 86th Annual National Convention of The American Legion contain a condensed annual report for the year 2003-04.

Believing that delegates to the National Convention are entitled to receive a concise statement of the major activities of The American Legion for the past year, ending with this National Convention, your National Headquarters provides this report as a part of the official program. In this manner, we are assured that every delegate and everyone who registers for the Convention will receive the condensed Annual Report.

A full, detailed report has been submitted to the Congress of the United States, in accordance with the Legion's congressionally granted charter and provisions of Public Law 249, 77th Congress, approved Sept. 18, 1941.

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Local service makes our whole greater than the sum of its posts

Each year, I sit down to write this report and look back with great pride in what The American Legion has done in the past 12 months. You, the members of this organization, set a new standard for service to America's veterans every year. When you raise the bar every year, a letdown is bound to happen once in awhile. But I never see that happen, not from the Legionnaires I proudly call my friends and comrades.

You've donated more than 960,000 hours of time to helping fellow veterans in hospitals, domiciliaries and nursing homes across the country. You've contacted members of Congress to speak out for a strong, vibrant and adequately funded VA health-care system, capable of serving veterans today and tomorrow.

While serving our nation's veterans, you never lose sight of the other three pillars of our organization: National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth.

We all know what it's like to be away from family for long periods of time while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. That's why many of you raised money this year to pay for satellite phone cards for troops stationed in the Middle East. They would not have been able to call home and talk with their loved ones if not for your generous efforts.

The time you spend talking with members of Congress about a satisfactory defense budget and better quality of life for servicemembers may go unnoticed by many, but when we see increased investment in our nation's defense and pay raises for servicemembers, it's obvious your voices are being heard.

Without our 15,000 posts, the Legion's Family Support Network wouldn't exist.

Countless families were given immediate assistance from our Temporary Financial Assistance program, with the amount currently standing at more than \$132,000 dispersed to those families.

Without our posts, 100,000 young men would not have experienced American Legion Baseball – an opportunity for our youth to exercise their skills and muscle in healthy, good-spirited, athletic competition.

Without our posts, 6,000 high-school students would have missed out on competing in our Oratorical program. In addition to the lost scholarships, these students would also miss out on learning more about one of America's most precious documents – our Constitution.

And without Legion posts, there is no Boys State or Boys Nation program. In a time when voter apathy is the norm, not the exception, I can't think of a better way to teach our nation's youth about the obligation of casting their ballots than by exposing them to an inside look at the democratic process. Boys State and Boys Nation brings government home in the minds of young men, so many of whom have gone on to become great leaders of our country.

The American Legion is at its strongest when we work as a collective unit, but without the efforts of the individual post, that can't happen. Our organization's strength doesn't start at 700 N. Pennsylvania Street in Indianapolis or at 1608 K Street in Washington. It starts at locals posts – from Maine to Guatemala, from rural Tennessee to inner-city Detroit. Our strength begins with you.

Every year I try to use part of this report to sing the praises of my fellow Legionnaires.



Robert W. Spanogle
National Adjutant

But you know the work you do. Without those efforts, The American Legion would not be making the difference that it does in so many lives.

I thank you for those efforts. I am very proud to call myself your comrade as we continue to unite in our common mission of "veterans helping veterans."

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rob W. Spanogle'.

Robert W. Spanogle
National Adjutant

National Officers

The American Legion continues its commitment to serving the nation's veterans, their families and all children. This commitment has served us well since 1919 when the veterans of World War I returned to American soil and formed what would become the world's largest veterans' service organization.

As the Legion convenes in Nashville, delegates gather to conduct the vital business of this great organization. From this convention will come policies that will direct the volunteer members as they work to make their communities – and our nation – better in the coming year, and beyond.

The American Legion accomplishes its goals primarily at the grassroots level but with direction from the National Headquarters in Indianapolis and a major office in Washington, D.C.

The Legion's chief executive officer is the National Commander, elected by delegates to the National Convention for a one-year term. The five National Vice Commanders are also chosen by the National Convention.

John A. Brieden III is the 2003-2004 National Commander of The American Legion. The major accomplishments of the Legion during his term are represented in the following pages of this program and condensed annual report.

Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, is the chief administrative officer of The American Legion. He, along with the National Judge Advocate, National Treasurer, National Chaplain, National Historian and National Sergeant-at-Arms, comprise the appointed National Officers of The American Legion.



John A. Brieden III
Texas
National Commander



Robert W. Spanogle
Michigan
National Adjutant



Kenneth Mueller
Texas
Commander's Aide



Richard G. Denbow
Iowa
National Vice Commander



Michael Dennis Helm
Nebraska
National Vice Commander



Fang A. Wong
New York
National Vice Commander



Clinton E. Thompson
North Carolina
National Vice Commander



Todd E. White
Wyoming
National Vice Commander



Raymond R. Wildman
Texas
National
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Rev. Dr. William J.P.
Doubek III**
Missouri
National Chaplain



Fae Casper
Georgia
National Historian



P.B. Onderdonk, Jr.
Maryland
National Judge Advocate



George Buskirk, Jr.
Indiana
National Treasurer

National Executive Committee

Between National Conventions, the administrative authority of The American Legion is exercised by the National Executive Committee, composed of the National Commander, the five National Vice Commanders, National Chaplain and one National Executive Committeeman (plus alternate) elected by each department. Past National Commanders are life members of the NEC but do not vote.

The NEC appoints the National Adjutant, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms. The NEC also has complete control over the annual budget.

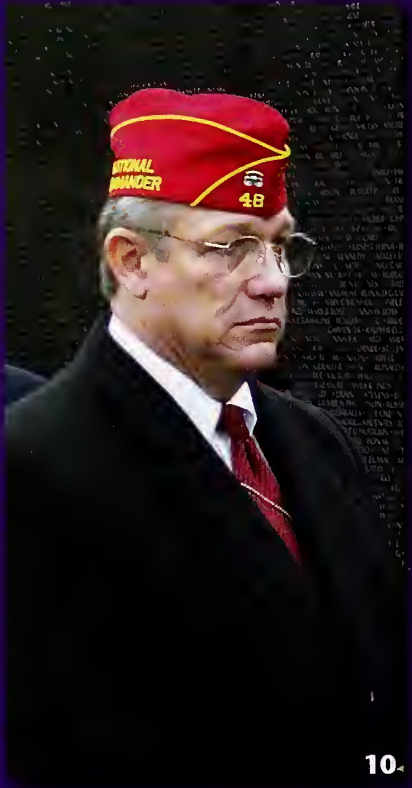
National Executive Committeemen

Alabama	Clarence W. Jacobs	Montana	Arthur E. Sell
Alaska	Jimmie L. Foster	Nebraska	Robert H. Zersen
Arizona	Marco "Tony" Valenzuela	Nevada	Ron Gutzman
Arkansas	Claude B. Carpenter	New Hampshire	Benjamin F. Talford
California	William E. Wilkin	New Jersey	Leo L. McKernan
Colorado	Joseph E. Ross	New Mexico	Bruce Jorgensen
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson	New York	Robert F. Neville
Delaware	Thomas L. Burns	North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick
District of Columbia	Dennis G. Kurre	North Dakota	Curtis O. Twete
Florida	Robert J. Proctor	Ohio	James C. Morris
France	William E. Marshall (<i>Alternate</i>)	Oklahoma	Donald H. Schulenberg
Georgia	Ray Hendrix	Oregon	T. Les Galloway
Hawaii	Michael D. McCloskey	Pennsylvania	Afred Pirolli
Idaho	H. Melvin Napier	Philippines	Ernesto P. Golez
Illinois	William J. Flanagan	Puerto Rico	Justo Perez-Morell
Indiana	Ron Lowe	Rhode Island	Eugene Pytka
Iowa	Ivan E. Torkelson	South Carolina	Rennie M. Singletary, Jr.
Kansas	Damon Christensen	South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	Tennessee	Ralph J. Reel
Louisiana	Russell J. Henry	Texas	Delbert D. Fuhrman
Maine	Robert A. Owen	Utah	William E. Christoffersen
Maryland	William B. Proctor, Jr.	Vermont	Donald T. Tetreault
Massachusetts	Mark A. Avis	Virginia	George T. Blume
Mexico	John E. Hayes	Washington	Richard D. Smith
Michigan	Norbert Schollett	West Virginia	William W. Kile
Minnesota	Robert Skallerud	Wisconsin	David A. Korth
Mississippi	Charles E. Langley	Wyoming	Joseph G. Sestak
Missouri	Sam Yancey		

Past National Commanders

Preston J. Moore <i>Oklahoma</i>	Judge James P. Dean <i>Mississippi</i>	Joseph J. Frank <i>Missouri</i>
William E. Galbraith <i>Nebraska</i>	John P. "Jake" Comer <i>Massachusetts</i>	Anthony G. Jordan <i>Maine</i>
John H. Geiger <i>Illinois</i>	Hon. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke <i>North Dakota</i>	Harold L. "Butch" Miller <i>Virginia</i>
Joe L. Matthews <i>Texas</i>	Miles S. Epling <i>West Virginia</i>	Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr. <i>Idaho</i>
William J. Rogers <i>Maine</i>	Robert S. Turner <i>Georgia</i>	Ray G. Smith <i>North Carolina</i>
John M. "Jack" Carey <i>Michigan</i>	Dominic D. DiFrancesco <i>Pennsylvania</i>	Richard J. Santos <i>Maryland</i>
Michael J. Kogutek <i>New York</i>	Bruce Thiesen <i>California</i>	Ronald F. Conley <i>Pennsylvania</i>
Keith A. Kreul <i>Wisconsin</i>	William M. Detweiler <i>Louisiana</i>	
Clarence M. Bacon <i>Maryland</i>	Daniel A. Ludwig <i>Minnesota</i>	

National Commander John Brieden's...



10

National Commander John Brieden of Brenham, Texas, delivered The American Legion message around the world in 2003 and 2004. He visited sites of triumph and tragedy, tension and peace. He spoke with troops stationed in harm's way and with those who've come home from the war experience changed forever. From the World War II Memorial Dedication to Omaha Beach, from the Korean DMZ to small towns and major cities in the American heartland, it was indeed a year to remember.

Numbered, from right: 1. The commander speaks at a Fisher House anniversary ceremony in San Antonio. **2.** A large crowd gathers at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day. **3.** A Legion family contingent visits the Samsung Heritage Center in South Korea. **4.** A new veteran who lost his leg at war hears words of encouragement from the commander at Brooke Army Medical Hospital. **5.** Dancers perform before the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial in Taipei. **6.** A Corporate Blue-Star Banner is presented to the Federal Aviation Administration in Nashua, N.H. **7.** Honorary National Junior Auxiliary President Emma Manning of Sedgewick, Kan., is congratulated by Commander Brieden and SAL Commander Neal Warnken. **8.** The commander visits one of many sites in Southern California devastated by wildfires, where American Legion National Emergency Foundation money helped. **9.** Legion family leaders meet with troops stationed on the Korean DMZ. **10.** A solemn moment at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington.



1

...Year to Remember.



9



7



8

Nashville





Youth Champions

ORATORICAL CHAMPION

Philip Bishop

Telling the audience to "wake up, stand up and speak up," Philip Bishop of Albany, Ga., captured the 67th American Legion National Oratorical Championship in Indianapolis. His winning speech centered on the opportunities the



U.S. Constitution gives to every citizen and earned Bishop an \$18,000 scholarship.

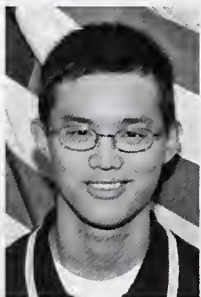
Bishop, a graduate of Deerfield Windsor School, said, "The young people of America must create, build, and energize an understanding of our Constitution's true spirit. I cannot defend our society as being perfect, but I have an obligation to make it better," he said.

Bishop, sponsored by Walter H. Burt Post 30 in Albany, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bishop of Albany. He plans to attend Berry College and major in mass media.

BOYS NATION PRESIDENT

Riley Harvell

Sixteen-year-old Riley Harvell of Belton, S.C., was elected President of the Boys



Nation for 2004 in a ceremony at Marymount University in Arlington, Va., on July 27.

The son of Dan and Ann Harvell, Riley was sponsored by Post 14

in Anderson, S.C., and served a state party chairman at Boys State in South Carolina. Riley will be a senior at T. L. Hanna High School. He runs cross country, is a member of the speech and debate team, and serves as company commander and chief of staff of NJROTC. He plans to attend the U.S. Naval Academy to become a Navy Seal. He also wants to go into the ministry.



The American Legion sponsors a number of programs that foster growth and development of America's young people. Thousands of students compete in these programs every year. The five listed here represent some of the brightest and most talented young people in America.

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Garrett F. Martin

Garrett F. Martin of McMinnville, Tenn., is the 2004 American Legion Eagle Scout of



the Year. Martin, a graduate of Warren County High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 631, received a \$10,000 college scholarship.

The award recognizes

Martin's practical citizenship at school and in the community, Scouting and his church involvement at First Baptist Church, McMinnville. For his Eagle Scout project, Martin organized a Patriot Day flag-retirement ceremony in September 2002. He directed a team of Scouts who handled three collection centers, and then he orchestrated the actual ceremony conducted by his troop.

An Eagle Scout since 2002, Martin also was an honor student and plans to study music at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. In addition to his Scouting involvement, Allen is active with the American Red Cross, is a charter member of a theater-restoration group, serves weekly meals for Love Outreach, and is a board member of the Warren County Fair Association.

2003 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jared James Willis

Jared James Willis of Logan, W.Va., is the 2003 George W. Rulon American



Legion Baseball Player of the Year. He received a plaque and \$4,000 in scholarship money and was honored at Major League Baseball's annual Hall of Fame

game in Cooperstown, N.Y. on June 14.

A graduate of Logan High School with a 4.0 GPA, Willis is majoring in engineering at Ohio University. Willis played for Post 19 in Logan, W.Va., for five seasons. He lettered for four years in baseball and basketball in high school.

Willis volunteered as a youth sports mentor and also volunteered for the American Red Cross Blood Drive, Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive, Key Club At-Risk Buddy Program, Salvation Army Food Deliveries and Youth Coordinator for the County Art Auction.

2003 JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPION

Tarl Kempley

Tarl Kempley of Reno, Nev., captured the 2003 Junior Shooting Sports championship



in the Precision Category at the 13th annual American Legion National Junior Air Rifle championships at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Sponsored by Duby Reid Post 30 and shooting for the Jedi Olympic Shooting Team USA, Kempley fired a 2,463.8 out of a possible 2,509 to claim the victory. He is the son of Tom and Susan Kempley of Reno, Nev.

Award-winning Oak Ridge Boys to perform at banquet



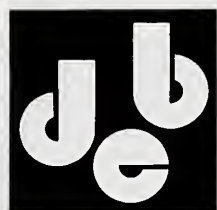
The Oak Ridge Boys — one of America's most famous gospel, country and pop musical acts — will perform at the National Commander's Banquet Aug. 31.

The Oak Ridge Boys began their career as the Oak Ridge Quartet in 1945. Their name was changed to the Oak Ridge Boys in 1961. They remained a predominantly gospel-oriented group until the late 1960s, when they began to concentrate more on country and pop music.

By the 1970s, the band's lineup solidified behind lead singer Duane Allen, tenor Joe Bonsall, baritone William Lee Golden, and bass singer Richard Sterban. In 1977, they switched from gospel to country.

The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of country hits, and their 1981 chart-topping smash pop hit "Elvira" earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA and ACM awards. They've recorded multiple platinum and double platinum albums and a double platinum single. The group was inducted into The Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2001.

The Oak Ridge Boys also are tireless advocates of charitable and civic causes, serving as spokesmen or board members of fundraisers for the Boy Scouts of America, the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Feed The Children, and many more.



D.E. BAUGH

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For Your
86th
National Convention*

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2004 Outstanding Military Academy Students



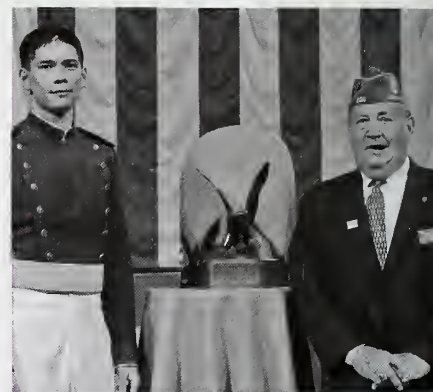
ARMY
Brian Cohee

Cadet 2nd Lt. Brian M. Cohee receives the award for highest standing in chemistry at the U.S. Military Academy from American Legion National Vice Commander Fang A. Wong of New York. The honor was presented during the 2004 Awards Convocation at the United States Military Academy on May 28.



NAVY
Nathan Williams

Ensign Nathan M. Williams receives from American Legion National Vice Commander Todd E. White of Wyoming the Legion's annual award to the midshipman in the graduating class with the highest academic standing among political science majors emphasizing the study of international relations.



AIR FORCE
James M. Valpiani

Cadet 2nd Lt. James M. Valpiani receives from National Vice Commander Clinton E. Thompson of North Carolina The American Legion's annual award to the Outstanding Air Force Academy Cadet in Academic Performance. The award is given in honor of retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott.



MERCHANT MARINE
Edward L. DiPierro

Midshipman Edward L. DiPierro receives from American Legion National Vice Commander Michael D. Helm of Nebraska the annual award for contributing the most toward the success of the Regimented Color Guard of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.



U.S. COAST GUARD
James Conner

Ensign James Conner receives The American Legion Award for excellence in athletics at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy from National Vice Commander Richard G. Denbow of Iowa.

In 2003 alone,

6,000 of our fellow Americans DIED

while waiting for a life-saving organ or bone marrow transplant.

Fortunately you can help!

Since 1986, the Children's Organ Transplant Association has **raised more than \$34,000,000** for transplant-needy patients and **distributed more than 1,800,000** organ donor registration cards.



Children's Organ
Transplant Association

We have much more to do and you can be part of the solution!

The Children's Organ Transplant Association is working to identify members of The American Legion family to help us **distribute 100,000** donor registration cards through posts across the United States in 2004.

You can also help by encouraging teachers and other leaders in your community to use the program to educate middle and high school students about the entire transplantation process.

Please clip and mail the coupon on this page to assist us in **saving our children** from an unnecessary death.

MAIL TO: Rick Lofgren, President
Children's Organ Transplant Association
2501 COTA Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403
800.366.2682 www.cota.org
e-mail: cota@cota.org

YES! I want to assist my fellow Americans by:

- ☐ I will distribute donor registration cards. Quantity_____.
- ☐ I will help campaigns in our area. Please contact me.
- ☐ Please place me on your mailing list.
- ☐ I will help contact middle and high schools in my area.

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The American Legion 2004 Annual Report

Americanism Commission



Joseph E. Caouette, Jr.
New Hampshire
Chairman

Marty Justis
Maryland
Director

The Americanism Commission of The American Legion served up a diet of healthy programs and activities to better America during the past year. They included educational programs for adults and the youth of our country and stood tall in promoting an unyielding respect for our national symbol, our country and those who serve today in its uniform of honor.

Following is a summary of the commission's activities:

Youth Activities

Programs for our nation's youth continue to help thousands reach their potential by building physical, mental and moral alertness while cultivating strong character and developing a devotion to civic responsibility. Activities and events occurring during the past year included the following:

- Philip Bishop of Albany, Ga., won the 2004 National High School Oratorical Contest and an \$18,000 college scholarship. Sherif Girgis of Dover, Del., was second in the competition and received a \$16,000 scholarship. Hannah Smith of Bethpage, Tenn., was third and received \$14,000.
- Garrett Martin of McMinnville, Tenn., was named the 2004 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and received a \$10,000 scholarship. Runners-up and recipients of \$2,500 scholarships were: Benjamin Banwart, Shakopee, Minn.; Christopher Jackson, Lincoln Park, N.J.; and William "Ben" Towne, Litchfield, N.H.
- More than 1,400 young men and women entered the individual competition in this year's postal matches associated with the American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP). In addition, 282 teams entered competition this year. The JSSP continues to interest young shooters across the country and trains Olympic hopefuls in organized marksmanship competition.
- The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America announced the availability of the Square Knot Award, recognizing

Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members who are actively involved in the Scouting programs of The American Legion. Information about the award is available from the Americanism and Children & Youth Division.

American Legion Baseball

The 2004 American Legion Baseball World Series is being played in Corvallis, Ore., Aug. 20-24. Future hosts for the tournament are Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 19-23, 2005; and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Aug. 18-22, 2006. The program continues to grow. In 1964, 2,445 teams registered to play American Legion Baseball. Today, more than 5,400 teams are registered in the program.

An American Legion Baseball team sponsored by Rochester Post 92, Rochester, Minn., won the 2003 American Legion World Series at Bartlesville, Okla. The national champion team attended the Major League Baseball World Series in New York City as guests of The American Legion and Major League Baseball. Jared James Willis of Logan, W. Va., was named the George W. Rulon American Legion Player of the Year. He received a \$4,000 scholarship and attended the National Baseball Hall of Fame Game in Cooperstown, N.Y., in June.

Immigration/Naturalization

The American Legion remains adamantly opposed to illegal immigration and the multitude of problems associated with it. It opposes amnesty, by any form or name, to individuals who are in this country illegally. The American Legion supports enforcement of existing immigration laws, maintaining strong border security, and reducing legal immigration to a number that can be easily assimilated into our society.

The Americanism Commission works to inform Legionnaires and others about the serious threats to our country's national and economic security that are posed by illegal immigration. This was accomplished during the past year through articles in *The American Legion Magazine* and the tabloid publication *Dispatch*.

National Committee on Education

Dr. Charles L. Vawter, Jr.
Arizona
Chairman

The American Legion believes education is the cornerstone upon which the future of this nation is built. In keeping with that credo, activities during the past year have focused on improving and maintaining a stronger relationship between

American Legion Posts and the schools in their communities.

The American Legion continues to promote the concept of placing veterans in the classrooms to talk about their service experiences. The concept has received enthusiastic response from educators and veterans alike. To support these efforts, the Americanism Commission has developed a video program called "America's Veterans." It is designed to increase student understanding of the role of veterans in a free society. The video is available from National Emblem Sales (Stock No. 23000) for \$3.95, plus shipping and handling. Additional multi-media presentations are in the planning or development stages.

Other education activities during the past year include:

- Laura D. Slayton of Lincoln, Ill., was named the recipient of The American Legion's National Education Award.
- More than 27,600 school award medals were ordered from National Emblem Sales and presented to deserving boys and girls in graduating classes of elementary and secondary schools and junior colleges. Recipients are selected based on courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.
- More than \$2.1 million has been awarded to students by the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program since its inception in 1996.
- The American Legion's scholarship and financial aid publication "Need A Lift?" was mailed to guidance counselors at more than 27,000 public, private and parochial high schools. Additional copies of the booklet can be obtained from National Emblem Sales at a single-copy cost of \$4.95, plus shipping and handling.
- The National Americanism Commission continues to actively promote and solicit contributions to the American Legacy Scholarship, also known as the Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship fund, established by The American Legion to assist dependents of those killed while serving in the armed forces of the United States on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The first American Legacy Scholarship was awarded to Stephanie Ann Pando, Indian Harbor Beach, Fla. Contributions to the fund can be sent to The American Legion Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1055 Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Counter-Subversive Activities

F. Rodney Loper
Pennsylvania
Chairman

The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee keeps a watchful eye on activities of individuals and groups that threaten our form of government. Findings are reported in the monthly publication *Firing Line*. Single subscriptions are available for \$7 annually. Bulk subscriptions, in which at least 20 copies are mailed to a single address, are available for \$1.50 each from The American Legion, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Summary

This year-end report reflects only a small part of the work carried out by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission. Much more time, effort and money are expended by Posts, Districts and Departments as they accept the challenges of sponsoring and conducting Americanism activities that feature wide-ranging community service, youth development and educational advancement.

Commission on Children & Youth



Elmer Fuhrhop
Ohio
Chairman

Marty Justis
Maryland
Director

To the National Commission on Children & Youth, children are our most precious natural resource. The "Whole Child" plan, adopted in 1925, provides that "the child of every veteran should have a home, health, education, character and opportunity." Its foundation is based on three principles:

1. Strengthening the family unit.
2. Extending support to sound organizations that provide services to children and youth.
3. Maintaining a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people.

Toward the accomplishment of these goals, the commission continually rededicates itself to helping all young people realize their full potential.

Our landmark program, Temporary Financial Assistance, has completed 79 years of service to the children of veterans. Last year, we

granted \$333,625 to veterans' families and touched the lives of 868 children. These precious dollars afforded 397 families food, clothing and shelter, thus preserving the integrity of the family home.

Since our beginning, the Legion has worked to increase the quality of life for all young people. Our partnership with Children's Miracle Network and its 170 children's hospitals throughout North America underscores this mission. Last year, the Legion family contributed over \$5 million to benefit local children's hospitals throughout this country, touching the lives of more than 17 million children.

Authorized by Resolution 17 in 2003, National Dedication Day encouraged American Legion family members in posts, units and squadrons across this nation to coordinate community celebrations on Memorial Day weekend 2004, to honor the men and women who served their country during World War II; and to care for the legacy they fought to ensure – namely America's children.

National Dedication Day was a three-tier, day-long event (prayer breakfast, walkathon and community celebration) that culminated with the presentation of awards and tokens of appreciation to the World War II veterans within each participating city and town across America. It was designed to be a celebration of their service to country that encouraged maximum participation by every citizen, business, organization and clergy in town. To assist our members, a booklet was developed and distributed to all American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units and Sons of the American Legion squadrons in September 2003. This booklet provided suggested steps for coordinating a successful Memorial Day weekend event.

This guide contained a number of tools to assist local posts in their efforts: an award certificate, a recommended presentation program, post commander remarks, a proclamation, media materials, message points and milestones. Flyers and sample programs were made available on a special member-only National Dedication Day Web site. Compact disks containing color art, ad slicks and pre-recorded television and radio public service announcements were distributed free to our members upon request through the Public Relations office in Indianapolis. Emblem Sales sold T-shirts and lapel tacks with the National Dedication Day logo at their store during our national convention. These and other commemorative items were featured in the 2004 Emblem Sales Catalog. Articles and ads in *The American Legion Magazine*, the *Dispatch* and the Auxiliary's

National News were part of an intensive internal public-relations campaign designed to encourage participation and reinforce the importance of this event.

National Dedication Day community observances mirrored the Legion's activities in Washington, D.C., thus allowing the veterans, and the community at large to feel like an integral part of the national effort to pay tribute to the World War II generation. Activities included a prayer breakfast, a walkathon to benefit children, a hospital-ity tent, and a VIP reception.

The National Dedication Day observance provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for The American Legion Family, as well as for the communities in which they served. It cut across all boundaries and commissions within our organization. It highlighted what The American Legion was charged to do by our founders in 1919 – to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to care for the veterans, and for the legacy they leave behind – the children of our nation.

"Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night" continues to be our most popular program. Each year, the Legion family distributes 200,000 to 800,000 brochures to young people throughout this country. To our knowledge, the Legion remains the only organization that emphasizes this event on a national level.

It could well be said that the Legion has a lot to offer, but please remember, these are simply activities the commission has taken on in order to provide Children & Youth volunteers with direct support. You might want to get involved with an activity we do not directly support with published materials. If this is the case, please contact us, and we will do our best to put you in contact with the organization that can best support your needs. Remember that it is not imperative to involve yourself in every national program. All we ask is that you take at least one Children & Youth activity and make it yours. It is better to do one thing very well than to do many things poorly.

The commission is proud of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of the American Legion and the Eight and Forty partners for their accomplishments on behalf of our country's youth. Their efforts in the area of child welfare are living testaments to the ability of free men and women to adapt themselves to evolving needs, while maintaining high principles and taking on increased responsibilities under those principles. With your fullest support, our organization will continue to lead the way in our pursuit of "A Square Deal for Every Child."

Nashville



The American Legion 2004 Annual Report

National Convention Commission



Jeffrey L. Olson
Minnesota
Chairman

Richard D. Holmes
Indiana
Director

The 85th Annual National Convention of The American Legion was conducted in St. Louis, Aug. 22-28, 2003. National Commander Ronald F. Conley of Pennsylvania called the convention to order at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2003. Commander Conley welcomed the Legionnaires to St. Louis and thanked them for their continuing service to our country and to our veterans. The Hon. Bob Holden, governor of Missouri; the Hon. Francis G. Slay, mayor of St. Louis; Clark Pointer, Department of Missouri American Legion commander; the American Legion Department of Missouri; and James F. Mareschal, president of the National Convention Corporation of Missouri welcomed Legionnaires to the National Convention. Congressmen Christopher H. Smith, Timothy F. Murphy, Jim Marshall, along with Sen. Christopher Bond, the Hon. Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Gen. Richard B. Meyers (USAF), Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, also addressed the attendees of the 85th National Convention.

The Hon. George W. Bush, President of The United States, addressed a standing-room-only crowd of Legionnaires on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

One of the many highlights for the 2003 National Convention was the National Commander's Banquet for Distinguished Guests that took place in the America's Convention Center. The Wright Brothers provided entertainment to a crowd of approximately 2,200 Legionnaires and guests.

Convention Commission Activities

The National Convention Commission held three regular meetings during the year. Discussions continue regarding the revisions of our request for proposal (RFP) sent to cities interested in hosting a national convention. The process is extremely important, as it provides an equal opportunity for all cities to be judged the same way during the initial review and site-visit process. It is the commission's desire to continue to attract new cities desirous of hosting our national convention. This provides our "blue-cap" Legionnaires and their families with a varied and enjoyable convention that can be shared by all on an annual basis.

New color guard rules approved by the National Convention Commission for the 2001 convention were refined and improved again for the 2003 National Convention in St. Louis. One additional

color guard class and one additional band contest class were implemented at the 2003 National Convention.

The National Convention Commission also rewrote and submitted for approval the Articles of Agreement between the Host Convention Corporation and the National Organization of the American Legion for the conduct of the national convention. Included in this revision were updated Convention Corporation Policy and Procedures, which are provided to each corporation hosting the national convention. This revision will allow both organizations to more efficiently and effectively conduct the business of the national convention and those responsibilities for each contained therein. These new procedures become effective with the 2004 national convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Beginning with the 1999 national convention and continued at the 2003 convention, each attendee had to have the proper identification badge/credentials to enter all of the venues of The American Legion National Convention. On-site registration tables were available for those who needed to register at the site of the convention. This process continues to prove successful and will be in effect for all future national conventions. Additionally, the convention and meetings office was directed to procure a new paper-within-plastic badge for the national convention. This badge proposal was made available for the first time at the 2001 national convention and continued successfully at the 2003 national convention. There have been no changes to the traditional Distinguished Guest badges, and the traditional badges continue to be available for purchase through the Emblem Sales Division during and after the national convention.

The National Convention Commission reviewed bids, provided to The American Legion, for the 2009 national convention, from the cities of Baltimore, Boston, and Louisville, Ky. Subsequent to conducting site visits and after listening to formal presentations from each of these fine cities, the National Convention Commission recommended to the National Executive Committee that the city of Louisville, Ky., be tentatively awarded the national convention for 2009, the dates being Aug. 21-27, 2009. The National Executive Committee later approved the recommendation.

Dates and future conventions are:

Honolulu, Hawaii
Aug. 19-25, 2005
Salt Lake City, Utah
Aug. 18-24, 2006
Reno, Nev.
Aug. 24-30, 2007
Phoenix
Aug. 22-28, 2008

Distinguished Guest Committee

Robert C. Laheire
Tennessee
Chairman

The Distinguished Guest Committee exists under the umbrella of the National Convention Commission. Responsibilities include the coordination of activities of all persons invited to attend the national convention as our distinguished guests. The committee arranges each guest's arrival and departure at the national convention. Each distinguished guest is also assisted with credentials, agendas and other details of the national convention.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.



U.S. "Udie" Grant
Kansas
President

William A. Pease
Indiana
Executive Secretary

In 1954, The American Legion endorsed the separate incorporation of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Since then, the foundation has granted more than \$6 million to non-profit youth-oriented organizations. Grants are awarded solely for the following two purposes:

- To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth.
- To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

At its annual meeting in October 2003, the board of directors approved grants to 13 non-profit organizations in the amount of \$338,700 for projects to be completed in calendar year 2004. These grants have been awarded to support worthwhile projects and disseminate information about them to the general public and specific target groups. The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded this year:

- **Advocates for Youth** of Washington, D.C. was awarded \$10,000 for a project titled, "Parents: It's Time to Talk 2004 Calendar

- **American Humane** of Englewood, Colo., was awarded \$29,700 for a project titled, "Families Make the Difference."
- **Birth Defect Research for Children, Inc.** of Orlando, Fla., was awarded \$29,800 for a project titled, "Birth Defect Research for Children Family Outreach."
- **The Center for Coordinating Action for Children's Health** of Naperville, Ill., was awarded \$30,500 for a project titled, "CoACH Care Plans."
- **Connect for Kids National Foster Care Coalition** of Washington, D.C., was awarded \$35,800 for a project titled, "Foster Care Technical Assistance Bulletins."
- **EveryChild, Inc.** of Austin, Texas, was awarded \$40,000 for a project titled, "A Family for Every Child."
- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation** of New York City was awarded \$35,500 for a project titled, "Why Me: Adjusting to a Diagnosis of Juvenile Diabetes."
- **Kartini Foundation** of Portland, Ore., was awarded \$18,400 for a project titled, "Diagnosing Childhood Anorexia."
- **Mercy Medical Airlift** of Virginia Beach, Va., was awarded \$25,000 for a project titled, "Child Patient Access to Distant Specialized Medical Treatment."
- **The National Children's Cancer Society** of St. Louis was awarded \$20,000 for a project titled, "The Mountain You Have Climbed: A Parent's Guide to Childhood Cancer Survivorship."
- **PKU Action Group – University of Washington** of Seattle was awarded \$8,000 for a project titled, "Maternal PKU: Choices You Can Live With."
- **Project OZ, Inc.** of Bloomington, Ill., was awarded \$31,000 for a project titled, "Animal Assisted Psychotherapy – Using Dogs and Horses to Help Children Heal."
- **Toledo Children's Hospital** of Toledo, Ohio, was awarded \$25,000 for a project titled, "Injury Prevention Booklet for Children with Special Health Care Needs."

I am happy to report that during 2003, donations exceeded \$488,954 with more than \$274,077 of that amount coming from the Sons of The American Legion. Members of The American Legion family are the primary contributors to the success and growth of the foundation. Each member and local organization is encouraged to make an annual contribution in support of the foundation. Your support allows it to continue funding projects that improve the quality of life for our nation's children. Every dollar given to the foundation is used for grants that assist young people.

At the meeting of the board of directors of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in Indianapolis on May 2, 2004, the following officers were elected: U.S. "Udie" Grant of Kansas, president; James P. Holley of Texas, vice president; Kenneth D. Danilson of Iowa, secretary; and Robert Turner of Georgia, treasurer. Administrative personnel appointed by the board of directors were George A. Buskirk, Jr., assistant treasurer, and William A. Pease, executive secretary.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the foundation retains its tax-exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests to the foundation are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.

National Economic Commission



Kenneth A. Sercerchi
Maine
Chairman

Joseph C. Sharpe
Maryland
Deputy Director

The National Economic Commission and its two standing subcommittees on Employment and Veterans' Preference are responsible for ensuring that America's veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families. In order to achieve this goal, the commission and its committees work closely with such governmental agencies as the Department of Labor, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of Personnel Management, the Small Business Administration and the Loan Guaranty and Vocational Rehabilitation services of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Currently, the National Economic Commission is spearheading the Legion's efforts to end homelessness among veterans. Staff Deputy Director Joseph Sharpe supervised the formation of The American Legion's Homeless Veterans Task Force and the appointment of Department Homeless Veteran Chairmen. Acting Deputy Director Melvin Oehlert continued this effort during his tenure. The Homeless Veterans Task Force met in executive session in January 2004 to plan the year's efforts, and in open session during Washington Conference. There will be another open meeting of the task force during the national convention. At the 44th Washington Conference, commission members and guests met to hear the latest on subjects of concern to them. Speakers included

Fred Juarbe, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, on the Labor Department's efforts to ensure compliance with USERRA and with laws concerning hiring of veterans by federal contractors; Kimberly Walton, Chief Ombudsman at the Transportation Security Agency, on how her program works and how it is helping veterans; Dan Blair, Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, on the subject of how OPM is addressing and resolving complaints concerning veterans' preference; Keith Pedigo of the VA Loan Guaranty Service on his agency's plans for the next year; and Anthony L. Eiland of the National Veterans Business Development Corp., on the corporation's current activities and plans for the coming year.

The Commission's Awards Subcommittee met to select winners in the Employer of Veterans and Employment Service awards programs. Here are the winners:

LVER of the Year:

Claud Miller of Anniston, Ala.

DVOP of the Year:

Jim Balog of Helena, Mont.

ES Local Office of the Year:

Pocatello Job Service Office, Pocatello, Idaho

Small Employer of Veterans:

Anderson Iron Works, Inc., Post Falls, Idaho

Medium-Size Employer of Veterans:

Wackenhut Services Inc., Spring Lake, N.C.

Large Employer of Veterans:

Wheatland Tube Company, Wheatland, Pa.

Just after Washington Conference last year, Deputy Director Sharpe was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq, and Melvin Oehlert, formerly of the Legion's BVA wing, stepped in as acting deputy director. Sharpe has returned to this country, and it is hoped at this writing that he will return to his duties as deputy director soon.

Condensed Report on National Emblem Sales Division

Keith H. Gwilliam

Utah
Chairman

Jeffrey O. Brown

Indiana
Director

The American Legion emblem is the exclusive property of the National Headquarters. The sale of the emblem, emblem pins, merchandise carrying the emblem and other items of organizational equipment is the responsibility of the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The following tables show gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire calendar year 2003 and for the first three months of 2004.

Nashville



The American Legion 2004 Annual Report

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2003
(12 months)

Gross Sales	\$11,585,519
Cost of Goods Sold	6,177,380
Overhead	3,842,484
Operating Profit	1,565,655

Total number of 2003 orders processed was 127,090.

Jan. 1 to March 31, 2004
(3 months)

Gross Sales	\$2,243,070
Cost of Goods Sold	1,194,445
Overhead	820,470
Operating Profits	228,155

Total orders processed for first 3 months of 2004 was 26,239.

Finance Commission



Kenneth D. Danilson
Iowa
Chairman

George A. Buskirk
Indiana
National Treasurer

Paul M Allen
Minnesota
Director

The primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for the National Executive Committee, handle funds under that budget, and exercise reasonable oversight to see that the various divisions and departments of the national organization operate within appropriations. The Finance Commission includes seven members, with the national adjutant as ex-officio secretary and the national commander and national treasurer as ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are the executive directors of the Washington and Indianapolis offices, and the finance director and liaison observers from the National Executive Committee.

The national organization had an operating surplus of \$1,881,757 for 2003. In that year, we received \$9 dues per member, allocating \$6 to the general fund and \$3 to *The American Legion Magazine*.

Income of the national organization derives from annual membership dues, interest on investments, magazine advertisements, Emblem Sales, contributions and other approved activities.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the auditor's report. Your attention is directed also to the Reports of Committees and Trusts, which can be found in this publication.

These entities include the:

- American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.
- American Legion Endowment Fund Corp.
- American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee
- American Legion Emblem Committee
- American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust

Foreign Relations Commission



David Rehbein
Iowa
Chairman

G. Michael Schlee
Maryland
Director

During the past year, the Foreign Relations Commission has worked diligently to implement an extensive portfolio of resolutions that promotes peace, security and posterity for America and our allies.

Major Issues

- **Support for the War on Terrorism and the War in Iraq.** The events of Sept. 11, 2001, forced the United States to adopt a more pro-active foreign policy in order to maintain a safe and secure American homeland. The American Legion strongly supports the global war on terrorism and the war to liberate Iraq. We realize that these endeavors require long-term commitments, taking possibly decades, and must include all the instruments of American power. These include military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic and law-enforcement forces. The campaign to eliminate terrorism will not be successful without the assistance of a coalition of allies and friendly nations.
- **Accounting for American POW/MIAs.** Achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans listed as prisoners of war or missing in action from all wars is a principal goal of The American Legion. The commission sponsors many programs to keep the POW/MIA issue in the spotlight and make sure our POW/MIAs are not forgotten.

Other issues

Adequate State Department funding, the continuing crisis with North Korea, the War on Drugs in Latin America, NATO's expanding role in Europe and abroad, support for Taiwan, and U.S. peace enforcement operations in the Balkans are all concerns of the commission. Commission members receive periodic updates

on these and other foreign issues of interest at our meetings.

Meetings of the Commission

Three meetings of the commission were held since the conclusion of the 85th National Convention. The commission met in conjunction with the National Executive Committee meetings in October 2003 and May 2004 in Indianapolis. The most extensive session for the commission was held at the Washington Conference, March 8-10. The highlights of these meetings follow:

Fall 2003 NEC

On Oct. 7-8, the Foreign Relations Commission met in executive session in the Radisson Hotel-Circle West to consider resolutions properly before it and to conduct other business. In the initial meeting on Oct. 7, two resolutions were considered. These were referred from the 85th National Convention and both were disposed of administratively. The commission engaged in a vigorous debate on the current situation in Iraq. Also discussed were America's participation in the United Nations as well as the continuing crisis in North Korea. The Foreign Relations Commission covered ideas for guest speakers for the Washington Conference in March 2003, including potential speakers for a possible POW/MIA Update program during the conference. The final meeting of the Foreign Relations Commission was held jointly with the National Security Commission to view a videotape titled "Kim's Nuclear Gamble."

2004 Washington Conference

The Foreign Relations Commission met in general session on March 8 and March 10, 2004, during the 44th Annual Washington Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington D.C. The following is a summary of their sessions:

Morning Session, March 8: The commission met jointly with the National Security Commission to hear several speakers of mutual interest. Brig. Gen. Louis Weber, Director of Training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G-3, addressed the many challenges facing the Army. The Army is undergoing the largest troop redeployment since World War II, with more than four divisions being replaced by four divisions in Iraq. Forty percent of the American force in Iraq will be composed of activated Guardsmen and Reservists; 48 percent of the Reserve Components have been activated. Additionally, the Army is rebalancing the Active Component/Reserve Component mix and will be reorganizing its brigade structures to create additional brigades with aviation and other capabilities. Finally, the Army intends to stabilize personnel assignments in the years ahead.

The second speaker, David Ballard, Director of the Office of Foreign Press at the U.S. Department of State, updated the commissions

generally on the role of his office in working with representatives of foreign media organizations in reporting news from the United States. Of immediate interest to the commissions was Ballard's accounting of his time in Iraq from December 2003 to February 2004, assisting in the process of beginning the institution of a true democratic government in Iraq and educating the local population in the workings of democracy. He discussed the problems facing the people of Iraq and, despite the acts of terrorism that were being perpetrated by those opposed to the regime change, hopeful signs were appearing. His report included instances of cooperation between the Shiite, Sunni and Kurd populations in working together toward taking control of their government. Ballard was generally optimistic on the prospects of conditions continuing to improve in Iraq. Ballard answered numerous questions on his impression of the current situation in Iraq, from the members of the commission.

Afternoon Session, March 8: The National Security and Foreign Relations Commission met in joint session to attend the POW/MIA update presented by the Foreign Relations Commission.

The first speaker of the POW/MIA session was Col. John Moulton, US Air Force, Commander of the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA). Col. Moulton summarized the responsibilities of the JPRA and provided a short history of the agency since its formation in 1999. JPRA is a joint-service agency charged with developing and implementing policy and procedures for training of U.S. military personnel in the event they are captured by a hostile force. The agency coordinates and evaluates the training in each of the individual services' survival schools, both for the basic course and the more advanced course for personnel who run a greater risk of capture, such as air crews or Special Forces. JPRA also has responsibility for tailoring the training of military personnel to the particular mission type being undertaken since the status of captured personnel can differ based on the type of mission; from prisoner of war to hostage to political detainee. The appropriate behavior of the captured personnel changes according to their status and thus the training needs change.

Ann Mills Griffith, executive director of the National League of Families of Missing from Southeast Asia, provided an update on the status of recovery operations and relations with the government of Vietnam. Her presentation included a historical sketch of the status of the POW/MIA issue and particularly credited President Ronald Reagan with resurrecting awareness toward providing an accounting of the missing. She touched on the support of The American Legion with the League of Families in opposing normalization of trade relations with

Vietnam and thanked the Legion for its strong support over the past 30 years. In response to questions, Griffith addressed the need to continually press the government of Vietnam on the issue of recovery and repatriation of remains but particularly in the area of those personnel whose status is in the category of "last known alive." It is the League's opinion that Vietnam could do much more to help in this area. She also spoke of the initial steps being taken by the government of Vietnam to allow a U.S. salvage vessel into its territorial waters to investigate more than 30 known sites of U.S. aircraft that went down with personnel aboard. These sites have the potential for recovery of approximately 90 U.S. personnel. Griffith also touched on the possibility that the Vietnamese government may have remains in storage to be returned as circumstances warrant to achieve their objectives. She concluded by asking for the continued assistance of Legionnaires in achieving the fullest possible accounting of all those missing, not just in Southeast Asia but from all wars.

Wednesday Session, March 10: The Foreign Relations Commission met in a business session. Assistant Director John C. Petersen gave a briefing on the International Affairs portion of the federal budget. He outlined the major portions of this account, which include State Department funding, foreign humanitarian aid and military assistance. Petersen also stressed that all international affairs spending accounts for only one half of 1 percent of the federal budget. Members of the commission were encouraged to submit ideas for speakers and topics of discussion at the meeting to be held at the 2004 National Convention in Nashville.

posts and individual members, and special projects. The commission also is required from time to time to provide guidance and assistance to the National Adjutant on necessary administrative operations of the National Headquarters.

Under the broad interpretation of those purposes not properly the responsibility of other commissions, Internal Affairs oversees awards, constitutional discipline, and commemorative activities. The commission also monitors legislative and other regulatory activities, which potentially affect posts and departments, and recommends appropriate courses of action.

The commission has four standing committees assigned to it for supervision and coordination. They are: Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials, Resolutions Assignment, Constitution and By-Laws, and Membership & Post Activities. The latter has separate reporting responsibilities to the National Convention and the National Executive Committee.

Internal Affairs is responsible for overseeing and reviewing the activities of the Sons of The American Legion, which is not a separate organization, but rather, a major program of the organization.

The commission also oversees such long-term programs and activities as the National Paid-Up-For-Life program and the National Emergency Fund.

Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials

Randall W. Busch
Nebraska
Chairman

This committee supervises all of the official national awards and recommends to the National Executive Committee recipients for the Distinguished Service Medal; over the years, some of those awarded The American Legion's highest honor were: Gen. John J. Pershing, Ignace Jan Paderewski of Poland, Henry Ford, Ernie Pyle, Bob Hope, Babe Ruth, Dr. Jonas E. Salk, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, the dead and missing of the Vietnam War, 10 men who have served as President of the United States in the 20th century, plus many other citizens of renown who have made lasting and significant contributions. Other awards on which this committee makes recommendations include the International Amity Award and the Canadian Friendship Award. A report is also prepared for the NEC on miscellaneous awards that have been presented during each year.

The committee also supervises the contents of the Manual of Ceremonies of The American Legion.

Internal Affairs Commission



Herman G. Harrington
New York
Chairman

John W. Querfeld
Illinois
Director

The National Internal Affairs Commission was established by resolution of the National Executive Committee in 1947. The original charge for this constitutional commission still remains: *to formulate and recommend policies and to oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to activities conducted for organizational purposes.*

Among those purposes are all those not properly the responsibility of any other national commission, as well as membership strategies, post formation, clerical and records administration for

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Resolutions Assignment

Gerald Diercks
Minnesota
Chairman

The Resolutions Assignment Committee meets at least three days before the convening of the annual national convention. This committee has the responsibility to receive, consider and transmit all resolutions – with or without recommendation – to the appropriate convention committee for a report to the convention. During an average year, 200 to 300 resolutions will be assigned.

Constitution and By-Laws

Vincent Gaughan
Illinois
Chairman

The National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion can only be amended by the duly elected delegates at a National Convention. However, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, established by the authority of the National Executive Committee in 1939, authorizes this committee to study and make proper recommendations concerning all of the matters that pertain to the Constitution and By-laws, as well as matters relating to the Uniform Code of Procedure, which provides rules and regulations for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Department and Post Charters of The American Legion.

Membership and Post Activities

Marilyn Britten
Michigan
Chairman

Billy R. Johnson
Georgia
Membership Director

Membership and programs go hand-in-hand to make The American Legion an organization able to provide the people and resources to serve the needs of the veteran and his or her family. Your Membership and Post Activities is pleased to report a continuing membership of nearly 2.7 million members worldwide.

Membership

Final 2002 membership	2,761,836
Final 2003 membership	2,688,331
2004 membership as of Aug. 1, 2004	2,679,465

41st Annual National Membership Workshop

The 41st annual membership meeting was held in Indianapolis July 30-31, 2004, with more than 300 department and district officers in attendance from nearly all of the 55 departments. Many of those attending arrive in Indianapolis with a very good understanding of the membership program, especially as it pertains to their areas. But, by the time the workshop concludes, they are prepared to face the day-to-day membership challenges with a better understanding of The American Legion as it relates to potential members.

The goal of this workshop is to provide these essential membership workers with the tools, knowledge and desire to grow membership in The American Legion. Whether it is membership recruitment or program implementation – it is all about veterans helping veterans and providing communities the essential programs to maintain a quality of life for which all veterans fought and served to preserve.

New Post Development/Revitalization

The Membership and Post Activities Committee developed a training program in January 1996 designed to assist posts, districts and departments in developing and revitalizing posts. The program provides training workshops to interested volunteers, along with practical field application.

The success of the program is evident, based on the revitalization/development of close to 500 American Legion posts. Efforts have now expanded into metropolitan areas. Many departments have been successful in this program without any actual assistance from national staff. Whether a department requests field assistance or just the training workshop, if the guidelines are followed, there will be successful results.

All departments are encouraged to participate in this program. The program, however, requires a commitment from every level of leadership, if it is to be successful. If you are interested in receiving additional information regarding the New Post Development/Revitalization program, contact your department or write or call: The American Legion, Membership Division, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or call (317) 630-1321 and ask for the Membership Division or e-mail ja@legion.org.

Reconnect Program

The Reconnect Program is an initiative by the Department of Defense to "reconnect" America with today's military.

"Reconnect" is an open invitation from the military for groups like The American Legion to establish ties between the total force action duty, National Guard, Reserves and the civilian community. This is not a free ticket to recruit, but it is an opportunity for The American Legion to showcase the programs and services we have

in place. Legionnaires should go into an event with an attitude of providing a service to the service members on the installation and promoting the military in the local community.

We have found that success depends largely on the participation of departments and the cooperation of local American Legion posts in the community near the military installations' National Guard and Reserve Units.

An important consideration is that while Reconnect visits to larger installations are important from a public-relations point of view, the measure of success for The American Legion is the amount and quality of visits to the thousands of local National Guard and Reserve component units in the United States, as well as smaller active-duty training installations. These men and women, and their families, are the citizen soldiers who live far away from the large established military support networks. They most need our support.

Point of contact for Reconnect is the Internal Affairs Division, (317) 630-1321 or e-mail at ja@legion.org.

Direct Renewal Program

The Direct Renewal Program is a uniform, organized, and simple way to invite members to renew their membership in The American Legion using a direct-mail system. This program has been very successful and effective and has been funded at no cost to either the participating departments or posts.

The first two renewal notices are optional for posts, but the final three notices go to all delinquent members. Each department chooses the dates its members receive the first three notices (1) July 1 or Aug. 1, (2) Oct. 1 or Nov. 1, (3) Dec. 15 or Jan. 11. The March 15 and May 1 notices go to all delinquent members.

Direct Membership Solicitation

Since 1982, the Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) program has been responsible for acquiring more than 2.6 million new members into the departments. Obviously, the DMS program has proven to be very successful in the acquisition of new members, but again this year, the emphasis will be on the transfer, renewal, and retention of those members.

The DMS program will continue to support The American Legion's ongoing membership efforts with special emphasis on the retention of all members.

Membership Campaign Promotion

The National Membership Awards Program distributes more than 65,000 various awards annually to recognize membership accomplishments at all levels of the organization. The promotion plan for the National Membership Campaign is formulated during the annual planning session of the M&PA Committee held in Indianapolis in January.

Point Achievers for 2003-2004 are below:

Early Bird Contest – Aug. 13, 2003

Forty-three departments qualified for the 35-percent target date. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

NEF Kickoff – Sept. 10, 2003

Forty-nine departments qualified for the 45-percent target date. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Fall Meetings – Oct. 8, 2003

Forty-eight departments qualified for the 55-percent target date. They are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Veterans Day – Nov. 13, 2003

Forty-eight departments qualified for the 65-percent target date. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Pearl Harbor – Dec. 10, 2003

Forty-three departments qualified for the 75-percent target date. They are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of

Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Mid-Winter – Jan. 14, 2004

Twenty-four departments qualified for the 85-percent target date. They are: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Big Twelve Competition – Feb. 11, 2004

Fifteen departments qualified for the 90-percent target date. They are: Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Big Twelve Competition Winners

Category I	Minnesota
Category II	Wisconsin, Iowa,
Category III	Kansas
Category IV	South Dakota, Maine
Category V	Delaware, New Hampshire
Category VI	No Winner

Legion Birthday – March 10, 2004

Three departments qualified for the 95-percent target date. They are: Delaware, South Dakota and Vermont.

Children & Youth – April 14, 2004

One department qualified for the 100-percent target date: Delaware.

Armed Forces Day – May 12, 2004

By achieving 101-percent of the department's 2004 membership goal, winning department commanders and membership chairmen have a choice of several gifts available, based on the number of targets/bonuses made during the year.

Department Commander of the Year

Any Department Commander, who met or exceeds his or her 100-percent goal for 2004 by May 12, 2004, will receive a plaque recognizing his or her achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Gold Brigade Recruiter Award

A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more new members by District Competition target date, May 12, 2004, will qualify for enrollment in the elite Gold Brigade of The American Legion.

Flag Day – June 14, 2004

By meeting 101 percent of the department's 2004 membership goal, the department commander and membership chairman will receive up to \$1,500. Each department that qualifies

for this award will also receive the 101-percent National Commander's Plaque, to be presented at the National Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Delegate Strength – Aug. 2, 2004

Delegate Strength is determined by the membership in the hands of the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the National Convention. Total number of delegates for each department is based on five delegates at large, one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, and the members of the National Executive Committee.

Post Honor Ribbons

Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 2,312 posts whose 2004 membership as of Dec. 31, 2003, exceeded their final 2003 membership.

Certificate of Meritorious Service

These certificates were awarded for 269 posts for attaining a new all-time-high membership for 2004 by Dec. 31, 2003.

Five Consecutive Years All-Time High

These citations are awarded to posts with five or more consecutive years of all-time-high membership in 2004.

District Commanders Race to the Top

District commanders are the lynchpins of The American Legion's chain of command, serving as the vital link between the national and department organizations and all posts. As we are all aware, the local post is where the "rubber meets the road." If it doesn't happen at the post level, it doesn't happen at all. District commanders are the people charged with insuring all posts in their districts maintain their vitality.

Normally, the top five district commanders are treated to a weekend in Indianapolis for the Indy 500. However in 2004, due to the unprecedented opportunity to reward our winning district commanders with tickets to the National World War II Memorial Dedication in Washington, D.C., the Membership Division arranged for round-trip air transportation and first-class hotel accommodations in Washington, D.C., dinner for the commanders and their guests at Fran O'Brien's Steak House in the Capitol Hilton Hotel and tickets to The American Legion Prayer Breakfast, the WWII Memorial Dedication Ceremony itself, and The American Legion Celebrity Reception following on May 29, 2004.

First-Place Winners (Trip to Washington, D.C.)

Category I	Lee Buchschacher
Tennessee, Dist. 10	121.74%
Category II	Johnny E. Poole
North Carolina, Dist. 18	108.13%
Category III	Harry Hicks
Texas, Dist. 16	109.59%
Category IV	Willie Reynolds
Georgia, Dist. 5	108.32%
Category V	No nominations

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Second-Place Winners (\$500 VISA gift card)

Category I	Dale Salmen
Nevada, Dist. 5	116.10%
Category II	Al Sanders
Louisiana, Dist. 5	106.36%
Category III	Paul Sleep
Georgia, Dist. 7	102.88%
Category IV	Eugene O'Grady
New Jersey, Dist. 15	102.73%
Category V	No nominations

Third-Place Winners (\$375 VISA gift card)

Category I	Lyman R. Brenner
Delaware, Dist. 2	110.24%
Category II	Robert Keaveny
Idaho, Dist. 3	105.62%
Category III	Jack L. Strayer
Delaware, Dist. 4	102.67%
Category IV	Ellis Manis
Georgia, Dist. 9	101.63%
Category V	No nominations

District Commander

New Post Achievement Award Recipients

District commanders who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion posts in their respective districts and have the new post's temporary charter applications on file in National Headquarters by May 12, 2004, qualify for a special recognition plaque.

Department Recruiter of the Year

Each American Legion Post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that post who has signed up the highest number of new members for the membership year by May 12, 2004. Department adjutants will determine the top new member recruiter for their respective departments and will have certified their department recruiter to National Headquarters on or before May 28, 2004. The department recruiter properly certified from each department, will be awarded a plaque inscribed with his or her accomplishment.

National Recruiter of the Year

The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the departments will be declared National Recruiter of the Year. The winner of this award receives an all-expense paid trip to the 2004 National Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Internal Affairs Programs

National Leadership and Information Conferences

The National Leadership and Information Conferences are designed especially for you. For more information — or a brochure — contact your department office.

Being there and participating are the best ways

to build a strong, proactive organization for the 21st century. Having a membership well informed on issues, objectives, programs and initiatives is important in providing service to veterans and their families. Having a mix of first-time attendees, plus those who have been to past conferences is a great combination of the new and the old, which is the bridge from the past to the future.

Bring new members to mentor. They will be tomorrow's leaders.

The following represents the conference schedule through 2005. Every district officer, program chairman and other aspiring leaders of The American Legion, Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion should plan to attend.

2004 Conference Series

(Remaining two conferences)

Region Four: Oklahoma City	Sept. 24-25
Region Eight: Spokane, Wash.	Sept. 17-18

2005 Conference Series

Region One: Springfield, Mass.	April 15-16, 2005
Region Five: Springfield, Ill.	Sept. 16-17, 2005
Region Three: Macon, Ga.	March 18-19, 2005
Region Seven: Phoenix	Sept. 23-24, 2005
Region Two: Hershey, Pa.	May 13-14, 2005
Region Six: Omaha, Neb.	April 15-16, 2005
Region Four: Oklahoma City	Sept. 23-24, 2005
Region Eight: Spokane, Wash.	Sept. 16-17, 2005

The Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion will conduct its 33rd National Convention at the Opryland Hotel & Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn. For the 30th consecutive year, the Sons of The American Legion are at an "All Time High" in membership. The SAL closed its membership at the end of 2003 with a record 280,206 members. This number represents a 5.2-percent increase over the previous year.

Membership figures for the 2004 year have already exceeded the figures for the 2003 membership year. By the National Convention in Nashville, the SAL will have surpassed the 2003 final figures by several thousand, giving it another "All Time High" for membership year 2004.

The SAL continues its support of American Legion programs and is heavily involved with support to our nation's veterans in the VAVS (VA Volunteer Service) program. In 2003, the SAL provided more than 195,830 volunteer hours in VA homes and hospitals. Donations in cash and goods to these veterans exceeded \$1,949,233 nationwide. This was remarkable considering only 10 percent of the squadrons submitted reports. The SAL also raised over \$274,077 in 2003 for the Child Welfare Foundation, surpassing all previous years. The Sons also provided several grants through The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The Sons of The American Legion have contributed more than \$2 million to The

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

The Sons continue to support Legion programs with major emphasis on VAVS, National Emergency Fund, World War II memorial and the Children's Miracle Network as well as other vital programs. As an integral part of The American Legion family, the Sons continue to serve and provide assistance to posts and their communities.

National Emergency Fund

The National Emergency Fund continues each year in the spirit of veterans helping veterans and their families in need, as it has since 1989. We topped the 1 million mark in 2002 for funds available to the Legion family. Last year, grants totaling over \$176,000 went to 107 individuals and 15 posts. Thus far in 2004 we have approved almost \$30,000 in grants due to major firestorms that tore through Southern California, and we can expect to receive many more grants from all over the United States now that spring and summer weather patterns are in place.

Total of grant monies awarded since the NEF was reinstated in 1989 is well over \$3.8 million.

It is important to realize that each dollar contributed to this fund is used for the express purpose of rendering financial assistance to our members and American Legion posts who have incurred devastation from a declared natural disaster (i.e., wind, rain, fire and earthquakes). The grants are to be used for immediate needs (lodging, food and clothing) and not to substitute for insurance. Moneys to support the administrative costs of maintaining this fund and conducting fundraising are absorbed through existing budget areas.

What makes this program so unique is that our members know they can turn to The American Legion for immediate financial assistance without the red tape or repayment requirements normally associated with other federal and state agencies. With the help of all Legion members, the National Emergency Fund will continue to meet those needs of our Legion family after a local, state or national disaster.

The Legion family has been extremely generous in the past, but we must not rest on our laurels. Every opportunity to continue local fundraising for the National Emergency Fund should be encouraged. Even though the fund is plentiful today, a single disaster can wipe it out very quickly. This is a golden opportunity for everyone who wears the Legion cap to keep the National Emergency Fund alive and well. We will continue to help our fellow comrades and their families in need.

Consolidated Post Reports

The Consolidated Post Report — one of The American Legion's most valuable documents — is our report card to Congress. It provides a summary of the collective assistance provided to the nation from our Legion posts. Nearly 50 percent of American Legion posts submitted reports to National Headquarters for the 2002-2003 year.

The total figures show the cost to outfit color guards, firing squads and other uniformed groups was \$2,430,773; Legion baseball team support cost \$6,955,435; other athletic teams were provided \$1,989,785; cash contributions to VA Voluntary Service was \$1,836,723, and more than 1,243,597 hours of volunteer service were provided; 56,454 Boy Scouts were sponsored at a cost of \$1,537,674; scholarships valued at \$3,977,835 were awarded to 8,451 students.

In addition, 2,223,378, hours were spent performing community-service work, valued at \$4,911,713; nearly 90,519 pints of blood were donated, and additional millions of dollars in goods and cash were contributed to programs helping veterans and their families.

Remember, these facts and figures represent just over half of all American Legion posts. What if all posts submitted a report? What are the true numbers?

Paid-Up-For-Life Program

They are Legionnaires who have voluntarily chosen to become Paid-Up-For-Life members under the national plan. The number of Legionnaires who have applied for lifetime membership since the beginning of the program in 1975 is over 250,000. A Legionnaire must be in good standing to become a Paid-Up-For-Life member. To be in good standing, the member must have a valid membership card for the current Legion year.

Each Paid-Up-For-Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper membership card, directly from national, to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card will be mailed in July of each year.

The cost of a Paid-Up-For-Life membership is based on the member's age at the time of application and the current annual dues of the post; an applicant may pay by check, MasterCard or VISA, Discover or American Express. Also, they may use the Time Payment Plan to purchase a National Paid-Up-For-Life membership. No interest and no service charge will be added to the fee.

Contact your post adjutant or finance officer or go to Legion website: <http://www.legion.org>.

(Note: Kansas and Nebraska do not participate in the national plan. They operate their own plan for their members.)

Information Technology

Ronald E. Brooks
Tennessee
Executive Director

The Information Technology Division (IT) is responsible for many processes critical to the operations of The American Legion. IT staff

plays a key role in the selection of all hardware and software used by National Headquarters and is responsible for troubleshooting and maintaining the equipment.

E-mail, Internet access, file servers, telephone systems, desktop and laptop computers, and the data telecommunications structure which links the Indianapolis and Washington National Headquarters offices are all responsibilities of the IT Division.

IT is also responsible for the computer systems which house The American Legion's membership database. IT is tasked with keeping the national database current by adding new members and changing addresses or other information of our current members. These same services are also provided for the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and the Citizens' Flag Alliance.

Along with the membership system at national, IT supports departments, detachments, posts, units and squadrons by providing them with electronic membership updates. Many of our state and local groups use the Association Information Manager (AIM) software offered by national to manage their membership records.

The IT Division is in the personalized laser printing business, too. Annual membership cards, membership solicitation letters, renewal notices, return address labels used for departments' fund-raising, mailing labels for various publications, and a variety of other printed materials are all produced by Information Technology staff.

In conjunction with the membership database capabilities, The American Legion has invested in sophisticated list processing software. This ensures mailings are done at the lowest cost using features that:

- Eliminate duplicate names from various lists so that only one item is mailed to each addressee;
- Sort mail in U.S. Postal Service sequence and print the address using the USPS bar code to receive the most favorable postal discounts; and
- Identify addresses that would not be recognized and thus not delivered by the Postal Service, preventing us from wasting printing and postage costs.

The American Legion Information Technology is an integral part of the Marketing Services Group, which includes Haynes & Partners Communications Inc. (HPC), Member Benefits and Emblem Sales.

Many of the services described above are provided to HPC clients, which generates enough revenue to offset more than 40 percent of the IT Division's operating expenses.

The American Legion Insurance Committee

Leroy S. Lakey
North Carolina
Chairman

G. Paul Dunn
Oklahoma
Membership Benefits Administrator

The American Legion Insurance Committee provides oversight for the several insurance plans currently offered by The American Legion and is assigned to the national Finance Commission.

The American Legion Insurance program supports several national programs which are among the most prominent and visible activities of The American Legion. The programs are listed below with the corresponding funding for 2004:

American Legion Baseball \$589,775; National Oratorical Contest \$294,838; Junior Uniformed Musical Groups \$35,000 for participation at the National Convention; Boys Nation \$162,887; Boy Scout of The Year Scholarship Award \$17,500; an award of \$2,500 per year up to four years, not to exceed \$10,000, for pursuit of a course of study beyond high school; three second-place awards in the amount of \$2,500 each are also granted.

These requests for grants are approved by The American Legion Insurance Committee, the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee.

Important Information: Effective Jan. 1, 2004, all term life plans were transferred to Reliastar Life Insurance Company. Insured members were informed of this change in October. As a result of this change, all term life insurance plans are under review. As soon as determinations are finalized about existing plans or new plans, appropriate announcements will be made. We expect to have additional plans available in 2004. If you have questions from current policyholders call (800) 542-5547, Marsh Affinity Group Services, formerly Seabury & Smith, Inc., 1776 West Lakes Parkway, West Des Moines, IA, 50398.

The American Legion offers a variety of insurance plans, which are described as follows:

Health Care Plans

The following health-care plans are offered in most states:

- A variety of major medical plans called "Market Basket" allow members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion to call and request quotes on major medical insurance.
- Small Business Group Insurance provides quotes on major medical coverage for small employer groups of two to 50

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employees. Additional options offered for employees are term life, accidental death, long and short-term disability and dental. Remember, these plans are for employees of the small business group – not the general membership. Posts and departments with two or more employees could also use this plan.

- **Dental Insurance:** This is an indemnified insurance plan with a full schedule of benefits, for members and their dependents, including SAL.

For information on the above plans, call (877) 886-0110.

LegionPlus TRICARE Supplement

The American Legion has a National TRICARE Supplement Program for active-duty and retired military members and dependents. The program is designed to meet the needs of active-duty and retired military members who may be referred to civilian facilities for care. It includes an active-duty and retired version.

Requests for information on the TRICARE Supplement Plan should be directed to the Administrator, Marsh Affinity Group Services, Inc., 1776 West Lakes Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50398; (800) 542-5547.

Birthday Life

Another plan available to members and spouses is Birthday Life, underwritten and administered by Union Fidelity Life Insurance (now owned by GE Capital) located in Trevese, Pa. This plan is a guaranteed-issue, whole-life plan combined with accidental death insurance, with premiums at entry age, which do not increase as the insured grows older. No medical exam is required.

The plan provides a limited death benefit, for the first two years, for death from natural causes and provides full benefits during that period for accidental deaths. Full benefits in any event are payable after two years.

Requests for Birthday Life information should be directed to the Administrator, Union Fidelity Life Insurance Co., 500 Virginia Dr., Fort Washington, PA 19034; (800) 523-5758.

Health Care

The national organization has several health-care products, which are offered to departments on an individual basis, as requested. Departments must approve the products by a vote of their Department Executive Committee and certify the approval to the national adjutant. Departments may or may not approve all plans offered. Upon approval by a department, appropriate announcements will be made to the membership. The National Health Insurance Program now has six departments that have approved participation: Illinois, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina. The Department of Pennsylvania participates in the dental plan only.

The American Legion Magazine



Dennis J. Henkemeyer
Minnesota
Chairman

Daniel S. Wheeler
Virginia
Editor in Chief

The American Legion Magazine experienced a good year financially in 2003. The approved budget projected a surplus of \$2,540,669; the division actually ended the year with a budget surplus of \$3,509,917. The additional surplus was realized primarily because of tight management of the entire production process, a very favorable paper market, tight control of the number of pages published, and advertising revenue being higher than projected.

The advertising revenue goal for 2003 was \$8,750,000. Actual advertising sales exceeded the goal by \$147,000. So far this year, advertising sales are ahead of goal by about \$500,000. The 2004 budget projects a surplus of \$2,562,864. So far, the magazine is on track to equal or better that surplus.

The American Legion Magazine's special issue this year is the "Impact 2004: Veteran Voters' Guide." In it, the major issues of concern to veterans are analyzed and voters are advised concerning questions they should be asking those seeking public office. For the first time, the magazine is tying its editorial content to the Legion's website, which can be accessed at www.Legion.org (click on Impact 2004).

All in all, the magazine is having a good year, and feedback from our readers has been mostly positive. We are in the process of upgrading both the design and content of the magazine. We expect to debut a new and improved *American Legion Magazine* in February 2005.

National Legislative Commission



Martin Conatser
Illinois
Chairman

Steve Robertson
Louisiana
Director

The purpose of the National Legislative Commission is to promote the legislative mandates of The American Legion before Congress as dictated by resolutions adopted at either a National Convention or meetings of the National Executive Committee.

Neither the Legislative Commission nor its staff can make policy decisions unilaterally without a supporting resolution.

The American Legion's legislative portfolio covers a large spectrum of issues, from flag protection to juvenile delinquency, from veterans' employment to foreign relations, from military preparedness to veterans' health care. Promoting the Legion's mandates requires oral and written testimony at congressional hearings; writing and mailing thousands of letters; and lobbying Congress by countless hours of telephone calls and meetings involving the commission's staff. The National Legislative Council, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion effectively augment the Legion's grassroots lobbying efforts.

Because of extended budget negotiations between the President and Congress, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 appropriations process fell behind schedule. By Oct. 1, 2003, only three of the 13 spending bills needed to fund federal government operations were enacted. By the end of 2003, that number had risen to six. After weeks of negotiations, an omnibus spending bill – Public Law (P.L.) 108-199 – was signed by the President that funded the remainder of the federal government. The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance (CFA) continue the push for a flag-protection constitutional amendment. In the House, House Joint Resolution 4 was introduced. On June 4, 2003, the House passed H.J. Res. 4 by a recorded vote of 300-125. In the Senate, a companion measure was introduced, Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 4. This measure currently has 57 cosponsors. The American Legion and the CFA have launched a campaign in key states aimed at urging certain senators to vote in favor of the amendment and then "let the people decide."

On Sept. 30, President Bush signed P.L. 108-87, the FY 2004 DoD appropriations bill. The bill funds DoD at \$368.2 billion, an increase of \$13.1 billion over FY 2003 funding totals. Among the various accounts P.L. 108-87 provides: \$74.7 billion for procurement of equipment and weaponry, a \$3.1 billion increase; \$65.2 billion for research and development of new weapons systems, compared to the FY 2003 amount of \$58.2 billion; \$98.5 billion for military personnel, an increase of \$1.9 billion from FY 2003 totals, which fully funded military personnel pay raises averaging 4.1 percent; and \$115.9 billion for operations and maintenance, which mainly provides for armed-forces training and flying hours. In other programs, a total of \$1 billion was enacted for procurement and development of chemical and biological defenses while drug interdiction programs will be funded at \$836 million.

On Oct. 1, 2003, President Bush signed P.L. 108-90, the FY 2004 Homeland Security appro-

appropriations measure. This bill – the first stand-alone measure to fund the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – allocates \$29.4 billion for its various agencies. Among the categories funded are: \$6.8 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard; \$5.6 billion over the coming decade for Project Bioshield, under which the federal government would acquire antidotes and take other steps to counter bioterrorism; \$5.2 billion for the Transportation Security Administration; \$4.9 billion for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection; \$4.2 billion in grants for state and local “first responders” – firefighters, police and emergency response personnel – to prepare for future terrorist events; \$3.5 billion for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs; and \$1.1 billion for the U.S. Secret Service.

On Nov. 11, 2003, the President signed P.L. 108-121, the Military Family Tax Relief Act. This law contains language sought by The American Legion to amend the Internal Revenue Code regarding use of American Legion post facilities by members and their families and legacy organizations. For several years The American Legion and the IRS have been at odds over unrelated business income, as well as the possibility of individual posts losing their tax exemption under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Act of 1986.

However, The American Legion has many programs – including the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), American Legion Baseball, oratorical contests, and sponsorship of Scouting units – designed to further the purposes for which the Legion’s tax-exemption status was granted. Also, many posts are family gathering places for social and patriotic events. P.L. 108-121 would provide that the definition of “member” for purposes of the tax-exempt status and unrelated business income would be expanded to include ancestors and lineal descendants of the member (a “member” meaning past and present members of the armed services who meet the congressional charter definition).

At the beginning of the 108th Congress, Rep. Mike Bilirakis, Fla., reintroduced H.R. 303, the Military Retired Pay Restoration Act. Although garnering 375 cosponsors, the measure languished in committee. The final version of P.L. 108-136, the FY 2004 DoD authorization measure, contains a compromise that affects approximately one third to one half of disabled retirees. The projected pricetag for this new program is \$23 billion over 10 years.

First, beginning on Jan. 1, 2004, all service-connected military retirees with 20 years of service and a qualifying combat-related disability rated at 10 percent for which the retiree received a Purple Heart, or as a direct result of combat, became eligible for the program. This includes National Guard and Reserve personnel who have accumulated fewer than 7,200 points. In addition,

military retirees currently enrolled in the combat-related special compensation (CRSC) program are also eligible to participate in the program.

In addition, retirees with non-combat-related disabilities rated 50 percent or greater would receive retired pay depending upon their disability rating, phased in over 10 years. The monthly payments will be \$750 for total disability, \$500 for 90 percent, \$350 for 80 percent, \$250 for 70 percent, \$125 for 60 percent and \$100 for 50 percent. Beginning in 2005, these payments would be adjusted by a set formula. This process would go on until Jan. 1, 2014, when the offset between retired pay and VA compensation would be eliminated.

Disabled military retirees could opt into either this new program or into the CRSC program. One determining factor could be that the new program’s payments are considered taxable income, while CRSC payments are tax-free. Also, as the 10-year phase-in progresses, retiree participants could determine year-to-year into which of the two programs they would like to participate. In addition, National Guard and Reserve retirees with 20 years of service are also eligible for this program.

The American Legion believes this so-called fix as inadequate, because not all of the veterans affected by the disabled veterans tax will be able to take advantage of this new program. It has been described as pitting one set of veterans against another. The American Legion will continue the fight to see the disabled veterans tax eliminated for all disabled military retirees.

The second session of the 108th Congress convened on Jan. 20, 2004. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers include the war on terrorism, the current conflict with Iraq, the final passage of the remaining seven appropriation bills for the FY 2004 federal budget and the proposed FY 2005 budget. On Jan. 23, 2004, President Bush enacted P.L. 108-199, legislation to fund the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for FY 2004. VA received a total of \$63.6 billion for FY 2004. A breakdown of individual accounts shows the following funding levels: medical care \$25.9 billion; medical and prosthetic research \$406 million; general operating expenses \$1.3 billion; National Cemetery Administration \$143 million; major construction \$614 million; minor construction \$206 million; state extended care facilities construction grants \$101 million; state veterans cemetery construction grants, \$32 million.

On Feb. 2, President Bush released his FY 2005 budget proposal. The President’s recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reflected a \$7.1 billion increase over FY 2004 funding. The administration proposed \$67.3 billion for VA, with only \$500 million of the increase going to VA medical care. However, the bulk of that increase includes fiscal assumptions by administration officials that The American

Legion finds unacceptable. These proposals include: a) a \$250 user fee for veterans in Priority Groups 7 and 8 regardless of other health insurance coverage; b) increased pharmacy co-payments for certain veterans from \$7 to \$15 per prescription; c) a continued prohibition for the enrollment of any new Priority Group 8 veterans; and d) a proposed limitation on veterans to a one-time use of the VA home loan program. Rather than consider ways to allow the VA health-care system to accommodate the veterans currently using it, the White House budget for VA seeks to limit veterans from using the health-care system. The American Legion opposes this particular strategy by the administration.

On March 5, the Senate Budget Committee released its version of FY 2005 budget resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 95. The Senate panel called for VA discretionary spending to be set at \$27.1 billion, an amount \$1.4 billion over FY 2004 funding amounts. Prior to final passage, the Senate agreed by voice vote to an amendment – offered by Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska – that added \$1.2 billion in funding for VA health care. The Senate passed S. Con. Res. 95 on March 12 by a 51-45 vote.

On Feb. 26, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee sent its VA budget recommendations for FY 2005 to the House Budget Committee. The VA panel’s proposal calls for a \$2.3 billion increase in VA discretionary funding, for a total of \$34.1 billion. That would be an overall increase from FY 2004 spending totals of \$3.2 billion. The committee rejected all of the proposed VA health-care assumptions that The American Legion opposes.

On March 19, the House Budget Committee reported House Concurrent Resolution 393, the FY 2005 budget resolution. During consideration of the resolution, the budget committee rejected the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee’s proposal for increasing discretionary funding. Instead, the budget committee added only \$200 million to veterans funding. The House passed H. Con. Res. 393 on March 25 by a 215-212 vote. House-Senate conferees now must work out a version that each chamber can support. Once this is accomplished, a final blueprint for the appropriations committees will be in place. It should be stressed that the budget resolution is not law but merely the guidelines for spending bills.

As we look ahead, presidential and congressional elections will occur in November to determine the next administration, along with one-third of the Senate and the entire House of Representatives running for office. When the 109th Congress convenes next January, The American Legion will focus its attention on FY 2006 VA and DoD funding, enactment of Medicare reimbursement legislation, and total repeal of the disabled veterans tax.

The American Legion 2004 Annual Report

National Security Commission



Allen L. Titus
Indiana
Chairman

G. Michael Schlee
Maryland
Director

National security has been one of the four major pillars of The American Legion since its beginnings in 1919. The attack on America on Sept. 11, 2001, coupled with the worldwide War on Terrorism and war in Iraq and Afghanistan, have spotlighted the need for strong, vibrant and flexible military power. The establishment of the Department of Homeland Security again demonstrated that national security is every citizen's responsibility. During the past year, The American Legion, through its National Security Commission and its supporting division, has presented its positions and policies on this nation's defense needs to the Congress, the executive branch and to the American public. In numerous testimonies to the Congress as well as press releases, articles and other outreach activities, we have stressed that our national defense must continue to be the best in the world.

Commission Meetings

Three meetings of the commission were held since the conclusion of the 84th National Convention. The commission met in conjunction with the National Executive Committee meetings in October 2003 and May 2004 in Indianapolis. The most extensive session for the commission was held at the Washington Conference, March 8-10, 2004. The highlights of this meeting follow:

Joint Session

On March 8, the commission met jointly with the Foreign Relations Commission to hear several speakers of mutual interest. Brig. Gen. Louis Weber, director of training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G-3, addressed the many challenges facing the Army. The Army is undergoing the largest troop redeployment in Iraq since World War II, with over four divisions being replaced by four divisions. Forty percent of the American force in Iraq will be composed of activated Guardsmen and Reservists; and 48 percent of the Reserve components have been activated. Additionally, the Army is rebalancing the Active component/Reserve component mix and will be reorganizing its brigade structures to create additional brigades with aviation and other capabilities. Finally, the Army intends to stabilize personnel assignments in the years ahead.

The second speaker, David Ballard, director of the Office of Foreign Press at the U.S. Department of

State, updated the commissions generally on the role of his office in working with representatives of foreign media organizations in reporting news from the United States. Of immediate interest to the commissions was Ballard's accounting of his time in Iraq from December 2003 to February 2004, assisting in the process of beginning the institution of a true democratic government in Iraq and educating the local population in the workings of democracy. He discussed the problems facing the people of Iraq and the hopeful signs were appearing regardless of the acts of terrorism that were being perpetrated by those opposed to the regime change. His report included instances of cooperation between the Shiite, Sunni and Kurd populations in working together toward taking control of their government.

Ballard was generally optimistic on the prospects of conditions continuing to improve in Iraq and answered numerous questions from the members of the commission on his impression of the current situation.

POW/MIA Update

On the afternoon of March 8, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session to attend the POW/MIA update presented by the Foreign Relations Commission. A report was given on the condition of Past National Commander Bob Turner who had chaired the POW/MIA update in the past. Commander Turner was unable to attend the session due to health reasons. The commissions joined with their chairmen in wishing him a speedy, complete recovery.

The first speaker of the POW/MIA session was Col. Randy Moulton (USAF), commander of the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency. Col. Moulton summarized the responsibilities of the JPRA since the agency's formation in 1999. JPRA is a joint-service agency charged with developing and implementing policy and procedures for training of U.S. military personnel in the event of capture by a hostile force. The agency coordinates and evaluates training in service survival schools – both for the basic course and the more advanced course, used for air-crew and Special Forces personnel, who run a greater risk of capture. JPRA also has responsibility for tailoring the training of military personnel to the particular mission type being undertaken since the status of the captured personnel can differ based on the type of mission, from prisoner of war to hostage, to political detainee. The appropriate behavior of the captured personnel changes according to their status and thus the training needs change.

Ann Mills Griffith, executive director of the National League of Families of Missing from Southeast Asia, provided an update on the status of recovery operations and relations with the government of Vietnam. Her presentation included a historical sketch of the status of the POW/MIA

issue and particularly credited President Ronald Reagan with resurrecting awareness toward providing an accounting of the missing. She touched on the support of the American Legion with the League of Families in opposing normalization of trade relations with Vietnam and thanked the Legion for its strong support over the past 30 years. In response to questions, Griffith addressed the need to continually press the government of Vietnam on the issue of recovery and repatriation of remains but particularly in the area of those personnel whose status is in the category of "last known alive." It is the League's opinion that Vietnam could do much more in this area to help. She also spoke of the initial steps being taken by the government of Vietnam to allow a U.S. salvage vessel into their territorial waters to investigate more than 30 known sites of U.S. aircraft that went down with personnel aboard. These sites have the potential for recovery of approximately 90 American personnel. Griffith also touched on the possibility that the Vietnamese government may have remains in storage, to be returned as circumstances warrant to achieve their objectives. She concluded by asking for continued assistance from Legionnaires in achieving the fullest possible accounting of all those missing, not just in Southeast Asia but from all wars.

Business Session

The National Security Commission met in business session on Wednesday morning. The acting commission chairman reminded commission members that this was a renewal year for resolutions at The American Legion's 86th Annual National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Pre-convention trip planning includes a visit to Ft. Campbell, Ky., to visit with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) which is returning from Iraq and will be standing down and reorganizing. The chairman of the Law and Order Committee, George Wehrli of Florida, reported on the selection of regional winners of the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. The commission also heard Desiree Stoy, the National Security Chairman of the Auxiliary, who delivered greetings and outlined the work the American Legion Auxiliary had done with military families during the War on Terrorism. Finally, the deputy director of the National Security-Foreign Relations Division presented a brief presentation on the Fiscal Year 2005 defense budget request and national defense issues. Two resolutions were also briefly considered by the commission but were not recommended for approval.

National Security Programs Blood Donor Activities

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary continue to be principal sources of supply for blood. Through our vast network of posts and units organized into department programs, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members continue to supply the blood needs of their own members

and hospitalized veterans, and under cooperative agreements, to patients in civilian hospitals.

National Commander's Awards

To stimulate activities among departments and posts, annual awards are made by the national commander. During the period from June 1, 2002, through Aug. 15, 2003, many departments of The American Legion actively participated in the Blood Donor Program.

The criteria for the National Commander's Awards for post and individual participation were based on Resolution 14, adopted at the Spring Meeting, May 8-9, 1985, of the National Executive Committee. The resolution directs that departments be placed in one of six groups based on their size, using standards established by the Membership and Post Activities Committee. The winning departments announced at the 85th National Convention were Hawaii, Georgia, Minnesota, Ohio, Washington and Wisconsin.

ROTC Programs

The departments are doing an excellent job of encouraging posts to participate in The American Legion's ROTC Medals Program. During the period from July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003, more than 12,000 medals were awarded to deserving Senior and Junior ROTC cadets. Presentations of medals were made to ROTC units in many of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and in overseas departments.

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy

The National Executive Committee at its October 1975 meeting approved Resolution 21 which established the Paul H. Griffith Trophy for the ROTC Program. The trophy honors the memory of Past National Commander Paul H. Griffith, who served as an assistant Secretary of Defense, and throughout his lifetime maintained an active interest in our nation's defense.

The criterion for judging the winner of the trophy is based on the department or departments giving the greatest degree of support to ROTC units, including the number of medals presented and Legion participation in award-day ceremonies. Winners announced at the 85th National Convention were the departments of Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota and Montana. This speaks well for these departments and The American Legion in their recognition of the youth of America enrolled in ROTC and Junior ROTC programs.

National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award

This prestigious award will be presented for the eighth consecutive year at the 86th National Convention. It recognizes law-enforcement officers who have selflessly distinguished themselves over and above their normal duties, primarily through community service and professional achievement. Nineteen departments submitted candidates for the 2004 award.

Public Relations Commission



Robert L. Morrill
New York
Chairman

Joseph H. March
Maryland
Director

The Public Relations Commission communicates the organizational image, goals, programs and legislative positions of The American Legion to national, regional and specialized media, corporate America and the public. During this past year, The American Legion harnessed the latest technologies in proactively marketing news releases, editorials and electronic media products.

For the first time, the commission marketed media materials in digital format, using Digital Video Discs (DVDs) to distribute video and audio briefings, television and radio public-service spots, talking points, printed ad slicks, brochures and training videos. The commission focused on promoting public support for troops deployed in the war on terrorism, enhancing public awareness about The American Legion Family Support Network, Blue Star Service Banners and the American Legacy Scholarship Fund. Special emphasis was given to development and distribution of the National Dedication Day Event Planning Guide. Thanks to your efforts, thousands of World War II veterans who could not travel to Washington, D.C., received the local recognition they so richly deserved. Commission members and staff worked with their counterparts in other commissions in support of the National Commander's "Military and Veterans Vote Impact 2004" campaign. Public relations efforts included a series of ads in *Army*, *Navy*, *Air Force* and *Marine Corps Times* and public-service ads in the European, Middle East and Pacific *Stars and Stripes*. The outreach program solicited active-duty, National Guard and Reserve participation in the selection of questions on a host of issues to the presidential candidates. Their answers will be provided next month in another series. Be sure to visit the Impact 2004 booth at this convention.

PR Technology

A vast array of free public-service media materials including ad slicks, news releases, editorials, fact sheets, suggested speeches, and radio and television spots were provided to departments, districts and posts. Many public-relations media products are available for downloading from The American Legion website at www.legion.org. Using these materials, media provided extensive coverage of posts conducting National World War II Dedication Day events, youth programs

and troop-support activities. New PR materials are available on DVD and CD formats to assist post public-relations officers in marketing directly to print and broadcast hometown media.

Media Relations

The American Legion remained a visible advocate for policies consistent with its founding pillars – Americanism, Children & Youth, National Security and the Rehabilitation of the Veteran – thanks to the media relations efforts of the American Legion Public Relations Commission staff.

As a result of the development of solid professional relationships with networks and the Washington press corps, national media on numerous occasions in 2003 and 2004 covered the national organization's advocacy of a flag-protection constitutional amendment; the right of schoolchildren to recite an unabridged Pledge of Allegiance; a full accounting of POWs and MIAs; and adequate funding and maintenance of the Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system.

Highlighting the coverage were several national Associated Press reports on The American Legion's fight for mandatory funding of VA health care and its considerable influence on the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Service process. Additionally, *Parade* and C-SPAN coverage of The American Legion's positions on VA health-care funding and its "Impact 2004" voter-education initiative also carried The American Legion story far and wide.

Editorial page submissions calling for VA health-care improvements, an increase in the active-duty force, and protecting the Pledge, which were published in *The Oregonian*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The New York Times*, respectively, solidified journalistic and general-public perception of The American Legion as a proponent for the proper treatment of troops and veterans as well as the preservation of the values for which they have sacrificed.

Awards

The National Commander's Public Relations Award was presented to the television series "JAG" and its creator, Donald Bellasario. The show was recognized for its outstanding support of the men and women of the U.S. military through creative, dramatic and action-packed episodes. "JAG" enabled millions of Americans to appreciate the dedication of not only the Judge Advocate General Corps but all who serve in the armed forces.

The American Legion Fourth Estate Award will be presented Thursday during the 86th National Convention in Nashville to UPI investigative editor Mark Benjamin for uncovering the plight of hundreds of sick and wounded U.S. soldiers who were "languishing" in hot cement barracks at Fort Stewart, Ga., while they waited – sometimes for months – to see doctors. His reporting

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prompted the rush of doctors and dollars to Fort Stewart to provide assistance.

The Future

The National Public Relations Commission remains committed to enhancing the image of The American Legion and engaging the media at all levels to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of military veterans and their families, past and present. In so doing, The American Legion will continue to be the pre-eminent voice of, and for, the American veteran in our nation.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission



Paul Morin
Massachusetts
Chairman

Carol Rutherford
Maryland
Director

Since 1919, the welfare of the physically and economically disabled veteran has been the steady focus of The American Legion. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission carries out advocacy work to ensure fair and

equitable treatment of veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services.

VA&R provides assistance in a variety of ways to include disability claims and health-care issues, military discharge review, Gulf War issues, as well as National Cemetery concerns. Additionally, VA&R staff is located at the Insurance Center in Philadelphia and at the Debt Management Center in Minneapolis.

Representation at the Board of Veterans Appeals

There are 12 American Legion appeals representatives located at the Special Claims Unit in Washington, D.C., who assist veterans in their claims for disability before the Board of Veterans Appeals. These representatives assist veterans in navigating through a maze of red tape in what can be a very daunting process for even the most determined veteran.

Health Care

VA&R has a Field Service Unit comprised of four representatives who assess and evaluate the Veterans Affairs health-care system and report on the impact of VA policy and procedures on veterans and their families.

Military Discharge Review

VA&R has two representatives who are

assigned to review veterans' records and assist them in obtaining a discharge review that may eventually result in an upgrade in the veteran's character of discharge.

Gulf War Task Force

The task force was formed in 1995 to focus specifically on the issues of Gulf War veterans. Today the task force monitors health-care issues related to service in the Gulf War.

Testimony

VA&R provides testimony on a variety of issues regarding the health and welfare of the veteran and their families. Several times a year, before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees, lawmakers who can make a difference hear the voice of the veteran.

A System Worth Saving Task Force

The VA&R Commission along with members of the System Worth Saving Task Force are continuing the mandate set forth in Resolution 147 to publish a yearly report outlining the quality and timeliness of health-care delivery within VA facilities systemwide. This comprehensive report will be presented before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees this summer.

The VA&R Commission will continue the fight to ensure that VA will indeed be capable of fulfilling its mission to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and his widow and his orphan."

Administrative Services

Daniel S. Wheeler
Virginia
Executive Director

Three major responsibilities are assigned to the Executive Director, whose office is located in the National Headquarters, Indianapolis:

During temporary absences of the National Adjutant from The American Legion National Headquarters, he acts for him. He additionally performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Adjutant to assist in meeting the responsibilities of that office.

He is in charge of the Administrative Services Division, which has the following divisions under that responsibility: Human Resources, Maintenance, Library, and the E. A. Blackmore Museum.

He serves on the Personnel Committee, Publications Board, HPC Board of Directors, and the IT Committee.

The Administrative Services Division also provides all secretarial assistance to the executive officers of The American Legion. All Division Directors resident at the Indianapolis National Headquarters report to the Executive Director.

Congratulations on your 86th National Convention

Keystone Uniform Cap

Div. M. H. Grossman
Manufacturers of Quality Uniform Headwear
801 N. Front Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Report of Independent Auditors

The American Legion National Headquarters Financial Statements December 31, 2003 and 2002 Indianapolis, Indiana

Members of the National Finance Commission
The American Legion National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters and its wholly owned subsidiary (the Legion) as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 and the related consolidated statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Legion's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Crowe Chizek and Company LLC

Crowe Chizek and Company LLC

Indianapolis, Indiana
February 27, 2004

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Nashville





ASSETS

ASSETS

Consolidated Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2003

	Unrestricted General	Unrestricted Designated	Unrestricted Total	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Grand Total
Revenue, gains and other support						
National member dues	\$ 21,157,668	\$ 2,075,040	\$ 23,232,708	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,232,708
Direct membership solicitations	2,150,508	-	2,150,508	-	-	2,150,508
Member service fees income	1,640,398	455,089	2,095,487	-	-	2,095,487
Financial program income	308,110	-	308,110	-	-	308,110
Sales of emblem items	11,541,969	-	11,541,969	-	-	11,541,969
Advertising	9,008,879	-	9,008,879	-	-	9,008,879
Contributions	114,209	-	114,209	683,057	108,490	905,756
Label and printing fees	1,938,389	-	1,938,389	-	-	1,938,389
Sales – HPC	844,585	-	844,585	-	-	844,585
Interest and dividends, net of trustee fees of \$67,649	396,130	1,357,195	1,753,325	890,911	-	2,644,236
Net realized gains	27,622	(25,006)	2,616	(43,427)	51,149	10,338
Other	1,289,791	898,763	2,188,554	-	-	2,188,554
	50,418,258	4,761,081	55,179,339	1,530,541	159,639	56,869,519
Net assets released from restriction	964,092	-	964,092	(964,092)	-	-
Net assets released from designation	4,249,887	(4,249,887)	-	-	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	55,632,237	511,194	56,143,431	566,449	159,639	56,869,519
Expenses						
Salaries	11,398,072	-	11,398,072	-	-	11,398,072
Employee benefits	2,558,375	-	2,558,375	-	-	2,558,375
Cost of sales - Legion	8,434,468	-	8,434,468	-	-	8,434,468
Cost of sales – HPC	667,162	-	667,162	-	-	667,162
Direct publication	11,033,937	-	11,033,937	-	-	11,033,937
Executive and staff travel	810,227	-	810,227	-	-	810,227
Commission and committee	1,370,962	-	1,370,962	-	-	1,370,962
Printing and postage	2,401,027	-	2,401,027	-	-	2,401,027
Scholarships, grants and awards	959,734	-	959,734	-	-	959,734
Office and other operating	9,462,946	-	9,462,946	-	-	9,462,946
Occupancy and usage	2,014,425	-	2,014,425	-	-	2,014,425
Special projects and programs	2,639,145	-	2,639,145	-	-	2,639,145
	53,750,480	-	53,750,480	-	-	53,750,480
Change in net assets before net unrealized gains (losses)	1,881,757	511,194	2,392,951	566,449	159,639	3,119,039
Net unrealized losses – PUFL annuity	(617,000)	-	(617,000)	-	-	(617,000)
Net unrealized gains (losses) - investments	(34,785)	1,250,540	1,215,755	(357,847)	(167,716)	690,192
Change in net assets	1,229,972	1,761,734	2,991,706	208,602	(8,077)	3,192,231
Net assets, beginning of year	15,690,032	32,335,074	48,025,106	5,427,743	11,257,726	64,710,575
Transfer of funds	(433,681)	433,681	-	-	-	-
Net assets, end of year	\$ 16,486,323	\$ 34,530,489	\$ 51,016,812	\$ 5,636,345	\$ 11,249,649	\$ 67,902,806

Consolidated Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2002

	Unrestricted General	Unrestricted Designated	Unrestricted Total	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Grand Total
Revenue, gains and other support						
National member dues	\$ 21,293,032	\$ 2,079,945	\$ 23,372,977	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,372,977
Direct membership solicitations	3,317,711	-	3,317,711	-	-	3,317,711
Member service fees income	1,542,308	512,385	2,054,693	-	-	2,054,693
Financial program income	251,643	-	251,643	-	-	251,643
Sales of emblem items	11,259,127	-	11,259,127	-	-	11,259,127
Advertising	8,827,810	-	8,827,810	-	-	8,827,810
Contributions	92,379	-	92,379	478,398	23,674	594,451
Label and printing fees	1,993,839	-	1,993,839	-	-	1,993,839
Sales - HPC	982,641	-	982,641	-	-	982,641
Interest and dividends, net of trustee fees of \$55,836	675,753	1,280,592	1,956,345	957,273	-	2,913,618
Net realized gains	2,268	74,645	76,913	547,258	18,030	642,201
Other	1,129,907	1,403,601	2,533,508	-	-	2,533,508
	51,368,418	5,351,168	56,719,586	1,982,929	41,704	58,744,219
Net assets released from restriction	1,123,747	-	1,123,747	(1,123,747)	-	-
Net assets released from designation	4,602,218	(4,602,218)	-	-	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	57,094,383	748,950	57,843,333	859,182	41,704	58,744,219
Expenses						
Salaries	10,980,616	-	10,980,616	-	-	10,980,616
Employee benefits	2,392,054	-	2,392,054	-	-	2,392,054
Cost of sales - Legion	8,674,876	-	8,674,876	-	-	8,674,876
Cost of sales - HPC	788,201	-	788,201	-	-	788,201
Direct publication	11,319,202	-	11,319,202	-	-	11,319,202
Executive and staff travel	943,559	-	943,559	-	-	943,559
Commission and committee	1,237,629	-	1,237,629	-	-	1,237,629
Printing and postage	2,456,090	-	2,456,090	-	-	2,456,090
Scholarships, grants and awards	1,106,752	-	1,106,752	-	-	1,106,752
Office and other operating	10,808,127	-	10,808,127	-	-	10,808,127
Occupancy and usage	2,037,464	-	2,037,464	-	-	2,037,464
Special projects and programs	2,520,707	-	2,520,707	-	-	2,520,707
	55,265,277	-	55,265,277	-	-	55,265,277
Change in net assets before net unrealized gains (losses)	1,826,710	751,346	2,578,056	859,182	41,704	3,478,942
Net unrealized gains - PUFL annuity	3,483,285	-	3,483,285	-	-	3,483,285
Net unrealized gains (losses) - investments	33,300	3,308,110	3,274,810	(185,928)	224,637	(3,236,101)
Change in net assets	5,343,295	(2,556,764)	2,786,531	673,254	266,341	3,726,126
Net assets, beginning of year	10,787,352	34,451,223	45,238,575	4,754,489	10,991,385	60,984,449
Transfer of funds	(440,615)	440,615	-	-	-	-
Net assets, end of year	\$ 15,690,032	\$ 32,335,074	\$ 48,025,106	\$ 5,427,743	\$ 11,257,726	\$ 64,710,575

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flow

Years Ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

	2003	2002
Cash flows from operating activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 3,192,231	\$ 3,726,126
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities		
Depreciation expense	834,889	776,053
Loss on sale of fixed assets	10,006	1,473
(Gain) loss on sale of investments	(188,077)	946,432
Unrealized losses (gain) loss on investments	(803,268)	3,765,633
Contributions restricted for long-term investment	108,490	23,674
(Gain) loss on Paid-Up-For-Life annuity	617,000	(3,483,285)
Accounts receivable	787,424	(420,496)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	72,889	(857,553)
Deferred membership expense	(327,083)	1,546,870
Inventories	167,422	(1,395,799)
Investment in affiliate (CFA)	15,575	36,716
Accounts and scholarships payable	84,718	(1,367,637)
Deferred income	(280,306)	343,006
Other accrued liabilities	228,772	(2,566,590)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>4,520,682</u>	<u>1,074,623</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(640,116)	(478,104)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	299	-
Purchase of investments	(141,483,952)	(50,836,386)
Sales and maturities of investments	137,600,302	50,419,660
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(4,523,467)</u>	<u>(894,830)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from contributions restricted for investment	(108,490)	(23,674)
Payments on line of credit	(72,451)	(61,779)
Net cash from financing activities	<u>(180,941)</u>	<u>(85,453)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(183,726)	94,340
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>2,234,219</u>	<u>2,139,879</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u><u>\$ 2,050,493</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,234,219</u></u>
Supplemental cash flows information		
Income taxes paid	\$ 149,792	\$ 279,566
Interest paid	52,062	236,111

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2003 and 2002

NOTE 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General: The American Legion National Headquarters (Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Legion is "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and goodwill among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

Approximately 50% of the Legion's income is derived from membership dues (including amounts allocated for magazine subscriptions). An additional 15% is generated through advertising for the American Legion Magazine. Another significant source of income is Emblem sales, which includes the sale of apparel, jewelry, and other items bearing the American Legion Emblem. Income is expended by the Legion on several different programs including The American Legion Magazine, Emblem sales, veterans' assistance and rehabilitation, youth programs and others. The Legion's youth programs include American Legion baseball, oratorical contests and Boy's Nation.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, gains, losses and other changes in net assets during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Principles of Consolidation: The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of The American Legion National Headquarters, and its wholly owned subsidiary, Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc. (HPC); the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (ALEF); and the National Emergency Fund (NEF) (collectively, the Legion). All material inter-organizational accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc., an Indiana corporation, is a full-service, direct marketing and advertising agency whose services include innovative marketing and creative automated mailing. The majority of its sales are to the Legion. The remaining sales are made primarily within the State of Indiana. American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, a tax-exempt Indiana corporation, was created to provide permanent funding for the rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. The National Emergency Fund is a tax-exempt trust established to provide gifts and grants to relieve suffering and ameliorate financial hardship incurred by American Legion members, families and Posts.

Net Asset Classifications: The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*. SFAS No. 117 requires, among other things, that the financial statements report the changes in and total of each of the net asset classes, based upon donor restrictions, as applicable. Net assets are to be classified as unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted.

The following classes of net assets are maintained:

Unrestricted Net Assets – The unrestricted net asset class includes general assets and liabilities of the Legion, as well as assets and

liabilities designated by the National Executive Committee, the governing body of the Legion. The unrestricted net assets of the Legion may be used at the discretion of management to support the Legion's purposes and operations.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets – The temporarily restricted net asset class includes assets of the Legion related to gifts with explicit donor-imposed restrictions that have not been met as to specified purpose, or to later periods of time or after specified dates. Unconditional promises to give that are due in future periods and are not permanently restricted are classified as temporarily restricted net assets.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets – The permanently restricted net asset class includes assets of the Legion for which the donor has stipulated that the contribution be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions limiting the use of the assets or its economic benefit neither expire with the passage of time nor can be removed by satisfying a specific purpose.

Cash and Cash Equivalents: For purposes of reporting cash flows, the Legion considers all liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents, except for those investments held or part of a managed portfolio. The first \$100,000 of deposits per financial institution is insured by a government agency.

Inventory: Inventory consists of Emblem items held for sale, magazine paper and publication rights and is stated at the lower of cost or market. Inventory items are valued at average cost. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments: Investments are carried at fair value. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the consolidated statements of activities. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

Property and Equipment: Expenditures for property and equipment and items which substantially increase the useful lives of existing assets are capitalized at cost. The Legion provides for depreciation on the straight-line method at rates designated to depreciate the costs of assets over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation on buildings is computed on the straight-line method using a 30-year life. All other capital assets are depreciated over lives ranging from three to seven years.

Support and Revenue: The Legion reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Dues Income and Expense: Dues are recognized as income over the applicable membership period, which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from direct membership solicitation is recognized over the applicable membership period (calendar year). The direct-response expenses incurred in obtaining new members are deferred and written off in the subsequent membership year.

Income Taxes: The Legion is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(19) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. ALEF and NEF are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. None of these organizations is considered to be a private foundation. The Legion is subject to income tax on unrelated business income. However, due to net operating loss carryforwards, the

Legion paid no taxes for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

Federal and state income tax expense is recorded for HPC, a for-profit corporation, as incurred.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments: The carrying amount of all financial instruments of the Legion approximate their fair values, with the exception of the line of long-term debt as disclosed in Note 8.

Expense Allocation: Expenses have been classified as program services, management and general, member development and fund raising based on actual direct expenditures. Additionally, some expenses are allocated among departments based upon estimates of the amount of time spent by Legion employees performing services for these departments.

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

The Legion's market value of investments is as follows:

2003 Market						
	Segregated for Restricted and Reserve Funds	Segregated for Washington D.C. Building	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Program	Other	Total
U.S. Government obligations	\$ 21,338,557	\$ 1,843,140	\$ 882,342	\$ 16,319,339	\$ 27,430,443	\$ 67,813,821
State and Municipal Bonds	-	-	-	832,984	-	832,984
Corporate Bonds	-	-	-	10,659,833	2,336,064	12,995,897
Foreign Bonds	-	-	-	-	33,444	33,444
Common and preferred stocks	-	-	-	9,647,257	-	9,647,257
Mutual funds	-	-	-	-	1,944,860	1,944,860
Money market accounts	227,832	34,078	25,443	1,664,811	11,826,187	13,778,351
Accrued interest	214,068	16,133	6,540	108,713	358,340	703,794
	\$ 21,780,457	\$ 1,893,351	\$ 914,325	\$ 39,232,937	\$ 43,929,338	\$ 107,750,408
2002 Market						
	Segregated for Restricted and Reserve Funds	Segregated for Washington D.C. Building	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Program	Other	Total
U.S. Government obligations	\$ 20,774,728	\$ 899,127	\$ 462,948	\$ 9,926,736	\$ 12,463,657	\$ 44,527,196
State and Municipal Bonds	-	-	-	1,013,663	-	1,013,663
Corporate Bonds	-	-	-	5,510,571	2,427,215	7,937,786
Common and preferred stocks	-	-	-	15,389,836	-	15,389,836
Mutual funds	-	-	-	-	1,613,802	1,613,802
Money market accounts	184,554	880,210	507,552	6,128,644	24,012,175	31,713,135
Accrued interest	212,035	14,116	6,540	246,852	200,455	679,998
	\$ 21,171,317	\$ 1,793,453	\$ 977,040	\$ 38,216,302	\$ 40,717,304	\$ 102,875,416

NOTE 2 - INVESTMENT IN AFFILIATE

The Legion, in conjunction with approximately 120 other organizations, has created a nonprofit corporation known as The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. (CFA) for the purpose of aiding in the campaign to secure a constitutional amendment empowering the Congress and the States to enact legislation to protect the Flag of the United States of America from physical desecration.

CFA recognized a net decrease/increase in net assets of \$15,575 and \$36,716 in 2003 and 2002, respectively. Accordingly, the Legion's investment in CFA has been decreased by these amounts and corresponding charges have been reflected in unrestricted designated net assets for 2003 and 2002.

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2003 and 2002

NOTE 4 - PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

The National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Under the terms of the PUFL program, participating member's national, state and local dues are paid by the Legion for the remainder of the individual's life. Management has estimated and recognized a liability for the future payments to state and local Legion organizations. Likewise, management has deferred recognition of the national dues portion of the members' payment. Deferred PUFL dues are recognized in annual amounts equal to the national dues in effect each year. The liability and deferred revenue amounts are estimated by the Legion's actuaries using PUFL membership summaries and discount rates comparable to the Legion's recent investment performance.

NOTE 5 - RESTRICTED AND RESERVE DESIGNATED FUNDS

The restricted fund is designated for use by the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee of the Legion. Earnings of the restricted fund, along with the principal, can be expended only upon recommendation of the National Finance Commission and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of the Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's defined net income to the restricted fund. The Legion transferred \$162,077 and \$120,615 in 2003 and 2002.

The reserve fund is also designated for use by the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. However, earnings of the reserve fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion. The principal can be expended only by action of the Legion at its national convention, or by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than 60 days apart.

NOTE 6 - LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

During October 1992, the National Executive Committee approved a resolution to terminate the Legion's Life Insurance Trust. Upon dissolution in April 1993, funds remaining in the Trust totaling \$4,285,984 were transferred to a segregated bank trust account (named The American Legion Life Insurance Plan) under control of the Legion for use in youth programs.

The Legion's National Executive Committee has directed that monies within The American Legion Life Insurance Plan used to fund oratorical contests, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other youth programs of the Legion. At December 31, 2003, \$1,100,000 in funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 2004.

NOTE 7 - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

The Legion received \$5,000,000 from The Samsung Group during 1996. The principal is to be permanently endowed and the income is to be used to fund undergraduate scholarships for descendants of Korean War veterans and other wars in which U.S. servicemen and servicewomen participated. Such scholarships are administered by the Legion.

Contributions to The American Legion Endowment Fund are recorded as increases in permanently restricted net assets, the income from which is to be used to support the veterans affairs and rehabilitation and children and youth activities of the Legion.

NOTE 8 - LONG TERM DEBT

In 2003, the Legion refinanced its long-term debt on its facility for emblem sales, information technology, member benefits and HPC. This debt is payable in monthly installments of \$25,213, including interest, beginning July 30, 2003, with a stated rate of 5.3% and final payment due August 1, 2018. The outstanding balance on long-term debt is \$3,068,661 and \$3,141,112 for 2003 and 2002.

The future maturities for the line of credit are as follows:

2004	\$ 142,737
2005	150,488
2006	158,662
2007	167,276
2008	176,561
Thereafter	2,272,937
	<u>\$ 3,068,661</u>

NOTE 9 - LEASES

The Legion has several noncancelable operating leases, primarily for facilities, computer equipment, copiers and cash registers that expire over the next three five years. Rental expense for these leases aggregated \$408,676 in 2003 and \$737,095 in 2002.

Future minimum lease payments under operating leases are as follows:

2004	\$ 175,319
2005	87,211
2006	25,953
2007	-
	<u>\$ 288,483</u>

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through June 30, 2006. The lease can be renewed at the option of the Legion for nine additional four-year periods. According to the terms of the lease, the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, and provide adequate insurance on the building in lieu of lease payments. The cost of maintenance approximated \$471,000 in 2003 and 2002. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy.

NOTE 10 - INCOME TAXES

The following is a reconciliation of income taxes at the federal statutory rate to actual income tax recorded by HPC:

	2003	2002
Income tax expense		
Currently payable		
Federal	\$ 32,020	\$ 52,291
State	13,392	31,265
Deferred		
Federal	1,900	5,900
	<u>\$ 47,312</u>	<u>\$ 89,456</u>

Reconciliation of federal statutory to actual tax expense

Federal income tax		
at statutory rates	\$ 45,171	\$ 76,239
Nondeductible expenses	1,485	2,487
Effect of state income taxes	11,998	14,854
Change in valuation		
allowance and other	(11,342)	(4,124)
	<u>\$ 47,312</u>	<u>\$ 89,456</u>

The components of the net deferred tax (liability) asset are as follows:

Asset		
Net operating loss carryforward	\$ 24,100	\$ 25,300
Liability		
Other	(25,200)	(24,500)
	<u>\$ (1,100)</u>	<u>\$ 800</u>

The deferred tax asset and liability are included in other accounts receivable and other liabilities, respectively, in the statement of financial position.

NOTE 11 - NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors.

	2003	2002
Purpose restrictions accomplished		
Overseas graves decoration	\$ 74,892	\$ 57,981
Scholarships and grants (including relief aid)	271,250	433,940
Veterans affairs and rehabilitation and children and youth programs	599,056	478,263
Other	18,894	153,563
	<u>\$ 964,092</u>	<u>\$ 1,123,747</u>

NOTE 12 - NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DESIGNATION

Net assets were released from designations by satisfying the designations previously established.

	2003	2002
Purpose designations accomplished		
Paid-Up-For-Life memberships	\$ 2,428,777	\$ 3,045,979
Youth programs (Life Insurance Plan)	1,083,298	1,041,709
Other	737,812	514,530
	<u>\$ 4,249,887</u>	<u>\$ 4,602,218</u>

NOTE 13 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations. The following table sets forth the Legion's portion of the plan's funded status and amounts recognized in the Legion's consolidated statement of financial position at December 31, 2003 and 2002.

	2003	2002
Benefit obligation	\$(35,046,175)	\$(30,611,098)
Fair value of plan assets	46,512,234	48,023,639
Funded status	<u>\$ 11,466,059</u>	<u>\$ 17,412,541</u>

Prepaid benefit cost recognized in the statement of financial position	\$ 16,245,300	\$ 16,032,673
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	2003	2002
Benefit cost	\$ (36,179)	\$ (169,353)
Employer contribution	179,333	168,957
Benefits paid	1,532,103	1,569,627
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>

Weighted-average assumptions		
Discount rate	6.5%	7.0%
Expected return on plan assets	8.5%	8.0%
Rate of compensation increase	2.0%	2.5%

HPC maintains a defined-contribution plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Elective deferrals are available to employees twenty-one and a half years of age who have completed one year of eligible service. HPC may make discretionary contributions to this plan.

NOTE 14 - FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

The following represents a functional breakdown of the American Legion National Headquarters' expenses by program and supporting services.

	2003	2002
Program services		
Veterans programs and services	\$ 30,894,757	\$ 30,685,586
Americanism and children and youth activities	2,357,647	2,533,591
Flag education and legislation	401,772	923,917
	<u>33,654,176</u>	<u>34,143,094</u>
Supporting services		
Management and general	\$ 14,464,619	\$ 13,382,152
Member development	5,580,425	7,689,821
Fund raising	51,260	50,210
	<u>20,096,304</u>	<u>21,122,183</u>
	<u>\$ 53,750,480</u>	<u>\$ 55,265,277</u>

Member development includes direct response advertising expense of \$3,059,196 and \$4,648,617 for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

NOTE 15 - LITIGATION

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

Supplementary Information

Report of Independent Auditors

Members of the National Finance Commission
The American Legion National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have audited and reported separately on the basic financial statements of the Legion for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the Legion's basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying analyses presented in the following schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the Legion's financial statements and, in our opinion, the accompanying other information is stated fairly in all material respects in relation to those basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Crowe Chizek and Company LLC

Crowe Chizek and Company LLC

Indianapolis, Indiana
February 27, 2004

Reconciliation of Internal Financial Statements to Audited Financial Statements Years Ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 Restated

Change in net assets – internal financial statements	\$ 1,881,757	\$ 1,826,710
Change in net assets before net unrealized gains not included in internal financials		
Unrestricted designated	511,194	751,346
Temporarily restricted	566,449	859,182
Permanently restricted	159,639	41,704
	<u>3,119,040</u>	<u>3,478,942</u>
 Net unrealized gains (losses)		
General	(651,7856)	3,516,585
Unrestricted designated	1,250,540	(3,308,110)
Temporarily restricted	(357,847)	(185,928)
Permanently restricted	<u>(167,716)</u>	<u>224,637</u>
 Change in net assets – audited financial statements	 <u>\$ 3,192,231</u>	 <u>\$ 3,726,126</u>

Consolidating Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2003

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	Eliminations	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 867,140	\$ 19,004	\$ -	\$ 1,164,349	\$ -	\$ 2,050,493
Accounts receivable						
Emblems	160,041	-	-	-	-	160,041
Publications	1,145,576	-	-	-	-	1,145,576
Related party	-	-	-	499,688	(499,688)	-
Other	986,791	73,121	-	87,447	(29,478)	1,117,881
Prepaid expenses and deposits	743,385	3,037	-	104,279	-	850,701
Deferred membership expense	4,522,186	-	-	-	-	4,522,186
Due from American Legion						
Endowment Fund	2,248,986	-	-	-	(2,248,986)	-
Inventories						
Emblem division	2,576,785	-	-	-	-	2,576,785
Publication division	436,548	-	-	-	-	436,548
Investment in affiliate (CFA)	74,859	-	-	-	-	74,859
Prepaid pension expense	16,245,300	-	-	-	-	16,245,300
	30,007,597	95,162	-	1,855,763	(2,778,152)	29,180,370
Investments						
Segregated for restricted and reserve funds	21,780,457	-	-	-	-	21,780,457
Segregated for						
Washington, D.C. building	1,893,351	-	-	-	-	1,893,351
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	914,325	-	-	-	-	914,325
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund	39,232,937	-	-	-	-	39,232,937
Other	34,562,510	-	1,144,893	-	-	35,707,403
Special account – endowment fund	-	2,162,624	-	-	-	2,162,624
General account – endowment fund	-	6,059,311	-	-	-	6,059,311
Investment in HPC	1,955,651	-	-	-	(1,955,651)	-
	100,339,231	8,221,935	1,144,893	-	(1,955,651)	107,750,408
Property and equipment						
Indianapolis real estate						
Land	389,264	-	-	-	-	389,264
Building	3,611,779	-	-	-	-	3,611,779
Washington, D.C. real estate						
Land	80,000	-	-	-	-	80,000
Building	4,138,918	-	-	-	-	4,138,918
Furniture, fixtures and equipment						
National Headquarters, Indianapolis	4,611,241	-	-	-	-	4,611,241
Washington, D.C.	1,086,923	-	-	-	-	1,086,923
Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	-	-	-	761,621	-	761,621
Work in progress – Washington, D.C. building	200,036	-	-	-	-	200,036
Accumulated depreciation	(7,097,733)	-	-	(608,151)	-	(7,705,884)
	7,020,428	-	-	153,470	-	7,173,898
Total assets	\$ 137,367,256	\$ 8,317,097	\$ 1,144,893	\$ 2,00,233	\$ (4,733,803)	\$ 144,104,676

Supplementary Information

Consolidating Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2003

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	Eliminations	Total
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$ 2,522,209	\$ 2,514	\$ 249,684	\$ 368,052	\$ (674,888)	\$ 2,467,571
Scholarships payable	908,206	-	-	-	-	908,206
Accounts payable – Legion	-	2,079,445	-	57,617	(2,137,062)	-
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	131,748	-	-	-	-	131,748
Deferred advertising income	165,561	-	-	-	-	165,561
Deferred dues income	20,332,441	-	-	-	-	20,332,441
Deferred income –						
direct membership solicitation	970,547	-	-	-	-	970,547
Accrued vacation benefits	631,133	-	-	-	-	631,133
Other liabilities	545,231	-	-	27,910	-	573,141
Notes payable	3,068,661	-	-	-	-	3,068,661
Deferred dues income –						
Paid-Up-For-Life Memberships	20,122,662	-	-	-	-	20,122,662
Life memberships due to state and local posts	26,830,199	-	-	-	-	26,830,199
	76,228,598	2,081,959	249,684	453,579	(2,811,950)	76,201,870
NET ASSETS						
Unrestricted – general	16,852,522	-	-	-	(366,199)	16,486,323
Unrestricted – designated						
Citizens Flag Alliance	74,859	-	-	-	-	74,859
Computer reserve	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
Convention reserve	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Convention stabilization	505,457	-	-	-	-	505,457
Employee insurance stabilization	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund	925,645	-	-	-	-	925,645
Real estate reserve	2,137,840	-	-	-	-	2,137,840
Reserve fund	2,319,686	-	-	-	-	2,319,686
Restricted fund	19,435,380	-	-	-	-	19,435,380
Youth program (Life Insurance Plan)	4,543,476	-	-	-	-	4,543,476
Veterans' rehabilitation/ child welfare (special account)	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Sons of the American Legion	926,960	-	-	-	-	926,960
Other	975,697	(14,511)	-	-	-	961,186
	51,397,522	(14,511)	-	-	(366,199)	51,016,812
Temporarily restricted						
Buick scholarship	639,654	-	-	-	-	639,654
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	916,925	-	-	-	-	916,925
Samsung scholarship	2,377,121	-	-	-	-	2,377,121
National Emergency Fund	-	-	895,209	-	-	895,209
Others	807,436	-	-	-	-	807,436
	4,741,136	-	895,209	-	-	5,636,345
Permanently restricted						
Samsung scholarship	5,000,000	-	-	-	-	5,000,000
American Legion Endowment Fund	-	6,249,649	-	-	-	6,249,649
	5,000,000	6,249,649	-	-	-	11,249,649
Shareholders' equity						
Common stock	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Additional paid-in capital	-	-	-	397,577	(397,577)	-
Retained earnings	-	-	-	1,157,077	(1,157,077)	-
Total net assets	61,138,658	6,235,138	895,209	1,555,654	(1,921,853)	67,902,806
	\$ 137,367,256	\$ 8,317,097	\$ 1,144,893	\$ 2,009,233	\$ (4,733,803)	\$ 144,104,676

Consolidating Statement of Financial Position (Restated) December 31, 2002

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	Eliminations	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,322,325	\$ 6,026	\$ 3,497	\$ 902,368	\$ -	\$ 2,234,216
Accounts receivable						
Emblem	29,869	-	-	-	-	129,869
Publications	1,234,092	-	-	-	-	1,234,092
Related party	-	-	-	433,682	(433,682)	-
Other	1,844,011	-	-	135,978	(133,028)	1,846,961
Prepaid expenses and deposits	1,010,214	3,673	-	122,330	-	1,136,217
Deferred membership expense	4,195,103	-	-	-	-	4,195,103
Due from American Legion						
Endowment Fund	2,000,000	-	-	-	(2,000,000)	-
Inventories						
Emblem division	2,939,903	-	-	-	-	2,939,903
Publication division	240,852	-	-	-	-	240,852
Investment in affiliate (CFA)	90,434	-	-	-	-	90,434
Prepaid pension expense	16,032,673	-	-	-	-	16,032,673
	<u>31,039,476</u>	<u>9,699</u>	<u>3,497</u>	<u>1,594,358</u>	<u>(2,566,710)</u>	<u>30,080,320</u>
Investments						
Segregated for restricted and reserve funds	21,171,317	-	-	-	-	21,171,317
Segregated for						
Washington, D.C. building	1,793,453	-	-	-	-	1,793,453
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	977,040	-	-	-	-	977,040
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund	38,216,302	-	-	-	-	38,216,302
Other	31,166,664	-	1,136,000	-	-	32,302,664
Special account – endowment fund	-	2,224,377	-	-	-	2,224,377
General account – endowment fund	-	6,190,263	-	-	-	6,190,263
Investment in HPC	1,861,427	-	-	-	(1,861,427)	-
	<u>95,186,203</u>	<u>8,414,640</u>	<u>1,136,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,861,427)</u>	<u>102,875,416</u>
Property and equipment						
Indianapolis real estate						
Land	389,264	-	-	-	-	389,264
Building	3,611,779	-	-	-	-	3,611,779
Washington, D.C. real estate						
Land	80,000	-	-	-	-	80,000
Building	4,138,918	-	-	-	-	4,138,918
Furniture, fixtures and equipment						
National Headquarters, Indianapolis	4,319,229	-	-	-	-	4,319,229
Washington, D.C.	1,130,353	-	-	-	-	1,130,353
Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	-	-	-	772,833	-	772,833
Accumulated depreciation	(6,475,232)	-	-	(588,168)	-	(7,063,400)
	<u>7,194,311</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>184,665</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,378,976</u>
Total assets	\$ 133,419,990	\$ 8,424,339	\$ 1,139,497	\$ 1,779,023	\$ (4,428,137)	\$140,334,712

Nashville



Supplementary Information

Consolidating Statement of Financial Position (Restated) December 31, 2002

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	Eliminations	Total
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$ 2,659,029	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 226,948	\$ (467,481)	\$ 2,418,496
Scholarships payable	872,563	-	-	-	-	872,563
Accounts payable – Legion	-	2,083,314	-	-	(2,083,314)	-
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	201,843	-	-	49,714	(49,714)	201,843
Deferred advertising income	67,114	-	-	-	-	67,114
Deferred dues income	19,822,208	-	-	-	-	19,822,208
Deferred income – direct membership solicitation	1,071,677	-	-	-	-	1,071,677
Accrued vacation benefits	616,785	-	-	-	-	616,785
Other liabilities	317,784	-	-	40,933	-	358,717
Notes payable	3,141,112	-	-	-	-	3,141,112
Deferred dues income – Paid-Up-For-Life Memberships	19,249,209	-	-	-	-	19,249,209
Life memberships due to state and local posts	27,804,413	-	-	-	-	27,804,413
	<u>75,823,737</u>	<u>2,083,314</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>317,595</u>	<u>(2,600,509)</u>	<u>75,624,137</u>
NET ASSETS						
Unrestricted – general	16,058,627	-	-	-	(366,200)	15,692,427
Unrestricted – designated						
Citizens Flag Alliance	90,434	-	-	-	-	90,434
Computer reserve	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
Convention reserve	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Convention stabilization	469,456	-	-	-	-	469,456
Employee insurance stabilization	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund	(690,217)	-	-	-	-	(690,217)
Real estate reserve	1,924,637	-	-	-	-	1,924,637
Reserve fund	2,388,891	-	-	-	-	2,388,891
Restricted fund	18,764,888	-	-	-	-	18,764,888
Youth program (Life Insurance Plan)	4,753,532	-	-	-	-	4,753,532
Veterans' rehabilitation/ child welfare (special account)	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Sons of the American Legion	873,531	-	-	-	-	873,531
Other	974,228	83,299	-	-	-	1,057,527
	<u>48,308,007</u>	<u>83,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(366,200)</u>	<u>48,025,106</u>
Temporarily restricted						
Buick scholarship	669,908	-	-	-	-	669,908
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	979,524	-	-	-	-	979,524
Samsung scholarship	2,571,861	-	-	-	-	2,571,861
National Emergency Fund	-	-	890,513	-	-	890,513
Others	315,937	-	-	-	-	315,937
	<u>4,537,230</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>890,513</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,427,743</u>
Permanently restricted						
Samsung scholarship	5,000,000	-	-	-	-	5,000,000
American Legion Endowment Fund	-	6,257,726	-	-	-	6,257,726
	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>6,257,726</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,257,726</u>
Shareholders' equity						
Common stock	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Additional paid-in capital	-	-	-	397,577	(397,577)	-
Retained earnings	-	-	-	1,062,851	(1,062,851)	-
	<u>57,845,237</u>	<u>6,341,025</u>	<u>890,513</u>	<u>1,461,428</u>	<u>(1,827,628)</u>	<u>64,710,575</u>
Total net assets	<u>57,845,237</u>	<u>6,341,025</u>	<u>890,513</u>	<u>1,461,428</u>	<u>(1,827,628)</u>	<u>64,710,575</u>
	<u>\$ 133,668,974</u>	<u>\$ 8,424,339</u>	<u>\$ 890,513</u>	<u>\$ 1,779,023</u>	<u>\$ (4,428,137)</u>	<u>\$140,334,712</u>

Consolidating Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2003

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	Eliminations	Total
Revenue, gains and other support						
National member dues	\$ 23,232,708	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,232,708
Sales of emblem items	11,541,969	-	-	-	-	11,541,969
Sales – HPC	-	-	-	5,118,942	(4,274,357)	844,585
Advertising	9,008,879	-	-	-	-	9,008,879
Direct membership solicitation	2,150,508	-	-	-	-	2,150,508
American Legion Endowment Fund income	384,232	-	-	-	(384,232)	-
Contributions	625,100	108,490	172,166	-	-	905,756
Affinity income	308,110	-	-	-	-	308,110
Label and printing fees	1,938,389	-	-	-	-	1,938,389
Member service fees income	2,095,487	-	-	-	-	2,095,487
Investment income, net of fees	2,154,554	439,485	41,126	9,071	-	2,644,236
Net realized gains	(19,232)	34,395	(4,825)	-	-	10,338
Other	2,429,192	-	-	299	(240,937)	2,188,554
Net income in subsidiary	94,226	-	-	-	(94,226)	-
	<u>55,944,122</u>	<u>582,370</u>	<u>208,467</u>	<u>5,128,312</u>	<u>(4,993,752)</u>	<u>56,869,519</u>
Expenses						
Salaries	11,398,072	-	-	-	-	11,398,072
Employee benefits	2,558,375	-	-	-	-	2,558,375
Cost of sales	8,579,194	-	-	-	(144,726)	8,434,468
Cost of sales – HPC	-	-	-	4,043,601	(3,376,439)	667,162
Direct publications	11,033,937	-	-	-	-	11,033,937
Executive and staff travel	810,227	-	-	-	-	810,227
Commission and committee	1,370,962	-	-	-	-	1,370,962
Printing and postage	2,401,027	-	-	-	-	2,401,027
Scholarships, grants and awards	959,734	-	-	-	-	959,734
Office and other operating	-	-	-	-	-	-
Veterans and child programs	9,362,495	30,312	-	823,331	(753,192)	9,462,946
Occupancy and usage	2,014,425	-	-	167,154	(167,154)	2,014,425
Special projects and programs	2,462,820	458,016	176,325	-	(458,016)	2,639,145
	<u>52,951,268</u>	<u>488,328</u>	<u>176,325</u>	<u>5,034,086</u>	<u>(4,899,527)</u>	<u>53,750,480</u>
Change in net assets before net unrealized gains (losses)	2,992,854	94,042	32,142	94,226	(94,225)	3,119,039
Net unrealized gains (losses) – PUFL	(617,000)	-	-	-	-	(617,000)
Net unrealized gains (losses) – investment	917,567	(199,929)	(27,446)	-	-	690,192
Change in net assets	<u>3,293,421</u>	<u>(105,887)</u>	<u>4,696</u>	<u>94,226</u>	<u>(94,225)</u>	<u>3,192,231</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>57,845,237</u>	<u>6,341,025</u>	<u>890,513</u>	<u>1,062,851</u>	<u>(1,429,051)</u>	<u>64,710,575</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 61,138,658</u>	<u>\$ 6,235,138</u>	<u>\$ 895,209</u>	<u>\$ 1,157,077</u>	<u>\$ (1,523,276)</u>	<u>\$ 67,902,806</u>

Supplementary Information

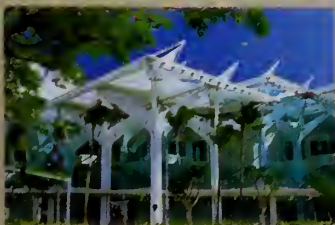
Consolidating Statement of Activities (Restated) Year Ended December 31, 2002

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.	Eliminations	Total
Revenue, gains and other support						
National member dues	\$ 23,372,977	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,372,977
Sales of emblem items	11,259,127	-	-	-	-	11,259,127
Sales – HPC	-	-	-	5,593,290	(4,610,649)	982,641
Advertising	8,827,810	-	-	-	-	8,827,810
Direct membership solicitation	3,317,711	-	-	-	-	3,317,711
American Legion Endowment Fund income	478,263	-	-	-	(478,263)	-
Contributions	462,753	23,674	108,024	-	-	594,451
Affinity income	251,643	-	-	-	-	251,643
Label and printing fees	1,993,839	-	-	-	-	1,993,839
Member service fees income	2,054,693	-	-	-	-	2,054,693
Investment income, net of fees	2,401,112	477,439	16,651	18,416	-	2,913,618
Net realized gains	623,135	19,035	31	-	-	642,201
Other	2,707,743	-	-	-	(174,235)	2,533,508
Net income in subsidiary	134,776	-	-	-	(134,776)	-
	57,885,582	520,148	124,706	5,611,706	(5,397,923)	58,744,219
Expenses						
Salaries	10,980,616	-	-	-	-	10,980,616
Employee benefits	2,392,054	-	-	-	-	2,392,054
Cost of sales	8,854,637	-	-	-	(179,761)	8,674,876
Cost of sales – HPC	-	-	-	4,486,519	(3,698,318)	788,201
Direct publications	11,319,202	-	-	-	-	11,319,202
Executive and staff travel	943,559	-	-	-	-	943,559
Commission and committee	1,237,629	-	-	-	-	1,237,629
Printing and postage	2,456,090	-	-	-	-	2,456,090
Scholarships, grants and awards	1,106,752	-	-	-	-	1,106,752
Office and other operating	-	-	-	-	-	-
Veterans and child programs	10,693,584	30,937	-	816,177	(732,571)	10,808,127
Occupancy and usage	2,037,464	-	-	174,235	(174,235)	2,037,464
Special projects and programs	2,380,516	478,263	140,191	-	(478,263)	2,520,707
	54,402,103	509,200	140,191	5,476,931	(5,263,148)	55,265,277
Change in net assets before net unrealized gains (losses)	3,483,479	10,948	(15,485)	134,775	(134,775)	3,478,942
Net unrealized gains (losses) – PUFL	3,483,285	-	-	-	-	3,483,285
Net unrealized gains (losses) - investment	(3,511,154)	264,866	10,187	-	-	(3,236,101)
Change in net assets	3,455,610	275,814	(5,298)	134,775	(134,775)	3,726,126
Net assets, beginning of year	54,389,627	6,065,211	895,811	928,076	(1,294,276)	60,984,449
Net assets, end of year	\$ 57,845,237	\$ 6,341,025	\$ 890,513	\$ 1,062,851	\$ (1,429,051)	\$ 64,710,575

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